

Thursday October 10 1996

Algeria D 3.50	Greenland D 4.00	Norway NK 15
Albania L 2.20	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Denmark DK 15
Andorra FF 10	Hungary F 200	Costa Rica CR 10
Australia A 10	Indonesia Rp 100	Cuba C 10
Bahrain B 2.00	India Rs 50	Czechia CZ 10
Bangladesh T 10	Iran R 100	Denmark DK 15
Belgium B 10	Italy L 2000	Finland F 10
Brazil R 2.00	Jordan J 1.25	France F 10
Canada C 1.00	Korea S 100	Germany DM 3.50
Cash Republics KC\$ 50	Kuwait K 0.50	
Dominican DR 10	Latvia L 1.00	
Egypt E 1.00	Lithuania Lt 1.00	
El Salvador S 10	Malaysia M 1.00	
Equatorial Guinea G 1.00	Mexico M 1.00	
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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,680

Jim White on why the Tories have the blues

## The age of anxiety

G2 with European weather



Books

## The power of poetry

New poems by Ted Hughes and Christopher Reid. Plus: John le Carré in Panama  
G2 pages 8/11

Online

## Computer that can predict human conflict

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Chancellor to face down critics despite whispering campaign by Euro-sceptics

# Clarke's crucial gamble

## Tories on tightrope over tax handout

Michael White  
Political Editor

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will today take one of the crucial gambles of his political career when he faces down the simmering hostility of a pre-election Tory conference without dangling budget tax cuts before his wary audience.

In contrast to last year's conference tease about tax cuts — "You may think that I couldn't possibly comment" — Mr Clarke will give neither voters nor the City any clues, other than to repeat his mantra that his November 25 budget will include "nothing irrevocable".

With many sceptics baying for cuts in tax and spending — as well as for the Chancellor's blood over Europe on the conference fringe — it will take all the party managers' manipulative skills to prevent a row finally boiling over. A whispering campaign is going on to undermine Mr Clarke.

In a conciliatory move, Mr Clarke has promised colleagues that he will say nothing in this morning's speech to enrage the sceptics by making the case for Britain to join the European single currency if the terms are right — a message which he has provocatively repeated in recent interviews.

"You will not be able to put a piece of paper between what the Prime Minister says and what he says," predicted one Clarke adviser. "It will be a



positive speech. He will say we will win."

Since last year's tax tease — which led to a £3.2 billion net budget tax cut, the first for three years — Mr Clarke's unpopularity with the Euro-sceptic wing of the party has deepened to the point where a persistent campaign is under way to undermine him or remove him from office.

Peter Lilley, a Euro-sceptic tax-cutter, is their designated replacement, the man whom rightwing Tories believe could give them two policies with which to beat rampant New Labour next spring. He was profiled as a "chancellor in waiting" by yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

The campaign against the Chancellor includes repeated claims that John Major offered his job to Michael Heseltine at the height of the crisis over John Redwood's leadership challenge last year.

"Clarke was expendable to keep Hezza at bay," one right-winger claimed this week. "Major told Ken he was going to be Leader of the House."

Rightwing Tories see the Chancellor as arrogant and provocative in the fights over Europe, and even the welfare state. The claim that he was close to leaving the Treasury 14 months ago, privately peddled by some senior Tories, has been categorically denied in Bournemouth this week by friends of Mr Major, Mr He-



John Major, captain of the Titanic, as portrayed in tonight's Labour Party political broadcast. Spitting Image was axed in January, but its latex puppets have been dusted down for a final appearance, and Labour hopes it will avert the big switch-off which accompanies party propaganda. A Spitting Image spokesman said: "It is a fitting high to go out on."

## Press warned on royal stories

Lawrence Donegan

**L**ORD Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, last night issued his most forceful condemnation of "unjustified" newspaper reporting of the royal family and warned it could lead to statutory controls on the media.

"The success of press self-regulation has been put under threat by the recent spate of royal stories, he says. Editors do not have carte blanche to run intrusive stories without any defence of public interest.

"Nobody would benefit from statutory controls — neither the public, whose complaints we deal with (free of charge) in their hundreds every month, nor industry, which would be dragged into a quagmire of litigation," the PCC chairman says in a letter to today's Times.

Lord Wakeham's warning follows an embarrassing climbdown by the Sun newspaper over its coverage of a hoax video tape purporting to show Princess Diana and her former lover James Hewitt.

Recent coverage of the Duchess of York's private life has been criticised and Buckingham Palace has asked the Daily Express to retract a story that Prince William had "a crush" on a 17-year-old schoolgirl.

Lord Wakeham highlights his particular concerns about the effects of such coverage on the children of the royals.

"When the story breaks they are the first to suffer. I can understand — as any parent could — why, in the circumstances, those individuals are reluctant to complain and prolong the suffering through the investigation.

"This is unfortunate because it might lead some newspapers into believing that they have carte blanche to invade their privacy," he says.

Sun plea on hoaxers, page 4

## Saimme vastu pükse (We wuz robbed)

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn

**O**NE team in Tallinn, there's only one team in Tallinn," says the killed herds on the terrace of the Kadrioru stadium in the Estonian capital. For once, they had it — literally as well as metaphorically — dead right.

Scotland were on their own as kick-off approached in yesterday's World Cup qualifying match. Estonia were 100 kilometres away, resisting an order from Fifa, international football's governing body, to be at their ground by 5pm.

At the appointed hour, the Scotland team, the Yugoslav referee and his two assistants took the field, exchanged formalities in the centre circle — handshakes all round — and went through a mock coin-tossing ritual.

As John Collins, the Scotland captain, won the call, one of the assistant referees — clearly a stickler for the rules — went to the "home" goal and checked the nets.

The referee signalled the start. Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen striker, slipped the ball to Collins, whose first touch brought the second, and final, toot of Miroslav Radoman's whistle; another famous victory was



A Scottish fan cheers the final whistle. PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN RADFORD

added to the Scottish canon and their prospects of qualifying for France '98 from Group 4 had soared.

Officially, the score line will read 3-0.

The farce had been caused by the poor flood-lighting at the Kadrioru stadium. On Tuesday night,

Gantzenbein of Luxembourg, it was determined that the match would start at its original time of 6.45pm.

Gantzenbein, however, was tormented through the night and, after hurried consultation with his Fifa bosses in Zurich, a final decision was taken to bring the match forward to 5pm.

The Estonians insisted that it was a logistical impossibility for them as some of their part-time players were still at work — as were their supporters — and the others were at a training camp at Kethna, 62 miles away.

Aiver Pohlak, the Estonian FA president, said: "We shall leave our headquarters at 4pm as scheduled for a 6.45pm kick-off."

"We know that the Scots will have been and gone by then and there will be no game today. But we do think the Scottish FA have been very, very unfair to us."

The comic element of the affair was not lost on the travelling fans, who added another song or two to their repertoire. "Sing in the daylight, we only sing in the daylight" was followed by the "Always look on the bright side of life".

"We wuz robbed in Estonia."

Frank Keating, page 14

## Call for tribunal gains strength

David Hencks  
Westminster Correspondent

**D**OUIG Hoyle, a prominent member of the Commons standards and privileges committee yesterday called for an independent tribunal chaired by a judge to investigate the "cash for questions" scandal because Parliament's top body was not capable of doing the job.

In a frank admission to the Guardian, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party said: "I don't believe that the Commissioner for Standards [Sir Gordon Downey] was set up to consider such a far-reaching and detailed inquiry which affects the whole standing of Parliament."

"It is far too large an inquiry to be undertaken with such limited staffing. The public will not like Parliament to be examining itself on such a serious issue."

Mr Hoyle, the MP for Warrington North, also disclosed that he would not participate in any hearings of the inquiry because £500 from Ian Greer Associates, the lobbying company at the centre of the scandal, was paid into his election fund.

"I did not accept, nor did I

request, any money from Ian Greer, but because he made a donation to my constituency in 1987 I do not think it would be right of me to participate."

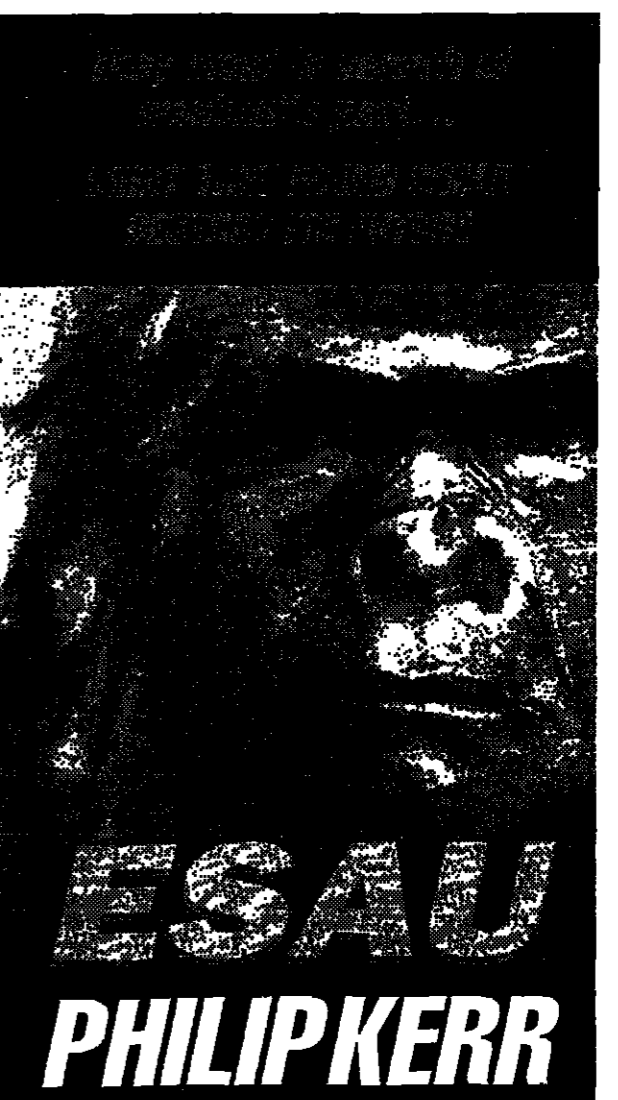
His warning comes a day after Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown wrote to John Major demanding an independent inquiry chaired by a judge.

There is understood to be growing concern among Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs about the impartiality of the body to handle the allegations against disgraced former minister Neil Hamilton.

Those with experience of the former privileges committee disbanded after the Nolan report feel that Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister who chairs the proceedings, did his best to hide the full extent of Mohamed Al Fayed's allegations against Mr Hamilton.

Some Labour MPs believe that Mr Newton engaged in a cover-up both at the committee — by insisting it was held in secret — and in Parliament by tabling a special motion to prevent the findings becoming public.

MPs on the standards and privileges committee will meet on Monday for what looks certain to be a stormy session when Parliament returns.



# PHILIP KERR

### Inside Britain

London, the capital, is today celebrating a growing case among its demoralised often and army.

### World News

London, the capital, is today celebrating a growing case among its demoralised often and army.

### Finance

Consumers watchdogs believe government intervention to bring competition to the gas market in south-west England is in chaos.

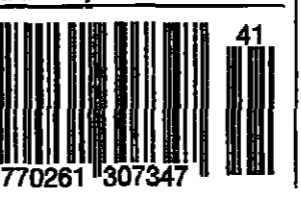
### Sport

England returned to Wembley for the first time since Euro 96, taking on bogey side Poland in a World Cup qualifying match.

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Obituaries 10  
G2  
Crossword 15; Weather 16;  
Radio 16; TV 16

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Conference sketch

# Rifkind has sweet smell of success



Simon Hoggart

THE Foreign Secretary received the longest standing ovation of his life yesterday, suggesting that he may at last have conquered his halitosis problem.

As regular readers know, Mr Rifkind has, in the past, suffered from breath so bad it could stop a runaway horse. This caused some anxiety when he was promoted to his present job. One had a vision of foreign dignitaries fleeing the conference table amid cries of "Mein Gott", "Zut" and "Sapritstii!"

Scottish journalists tell me the problem, while still present, is milder than it once was. "You can get quite close to him on a good day," one said. In any event, clouds of minty freshness were billowing out over the Tory conference yesterday. Mr Rifkind sprayed them with Gold Spot, rubbed Old Spice under their arms, drenched them in mango flavoured body-scrub, and left them feeling so tingling good that they might even make him party leader — now that John Redwood has ruled himself out by his Panorama appearance this week.

An hour later we enjoyed an innovation, a question and answer session with the Prime Minister. Mr Major seemed obsessed with the notion that we hacks believed the questions would be planted. We didn't. We knew that, even selected at random, every questioner would be as gentle as any sucking Fabrikant. As Hilary Bellac nearly wrote: "You cannot hope to orchestrate / Thank God, a Tory delegate, / But seeing what the creep will do / Unfixed, there's no occasion to."

First night

# Tricks leave cold classic lifeless

Lyn Gardner

Les Danaides  
National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

THE car park attendant was not encouraging: pointing to the acres of empty places, he said I could park anywhere. But was not expecting many for "the foreign thing" tonight. Come next week, it would be a different matter, Cliff Richard would be here to "give his Heathcliff".

"The foreign thing", otherwise known as Aeschylus' lost epic tragedy, Les Danaides, directed by the acclaimed Romanian Silviu Purcarete, whose production of Phaedra was a wonder to behold, may not be a crowd puller, but the sparsity of the audience was made up for by the numbers on stage. Les Danaides is the Greek tragedy with a chorus of more than 100. There are times when, even on a stage the size of a football pitch, it looks as if there may be an overflow.

Only one part of the tetralogy, The Suppliants, has survived, so Purcarete has turned together scraps and fragments, drawing on other texts by Aeschylus and, if necessary, inventing to fill in the gaps in a story that recounts the birth of the Greek nation and, in effect, the beginning of European civilisation.

Inspector wins round

Sarah Boseley

A POLICE inspector has been given the go-ahead to accuse the Lincolnshire constabulary at an industrial tribunal of "warming off" colleagues who she says support her allegations of sexual harassment and of giving good jobs to those prepared to give evidence against her.

should ask one or two questions — that should satisfy their cynical minds."

The second delegate had another vicious poser. Since privatisation had been such a huge success, how was the Government going to get the message across to the voters?

A black woman, Lurline Champagne, wanted the world to know that the Tories were the party for ethnic minorities.

Mr Major took his jacket off to show he meant business. Someone wanted to know what the Government was going to do about scroungers and abusers of the welfare system. These people were ruthless. A woman who wanted handbags banned applied some Vaseline first: "You did not get where you are today by waiting to hear what your opinion should be," she claimed. Nonsense; that's exactly how he got where he is today.

A man who wanted to know about the single currency began by announcing that "traditional Tory voters are coming home!" Mr Major replied: "Those cynical journalists would have to be pretty cynical to imagine that these questions are rigged!"

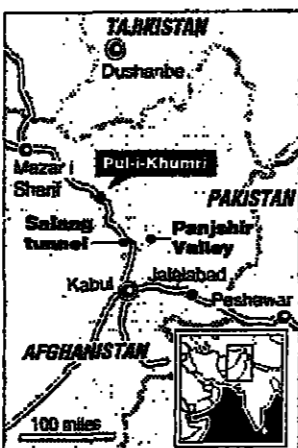
As the questions got harsher ("What can we tell voters to assure them that this nation is safe in our hands?") Mr Major tried to wriggle off the hook by rambling. We joined him at a school in a slum area of Lima, where he met "a whole selection of mopets", one of whom wanted to be a brain surgeon.

It was not quite clear what lesson the ambitious Peruvian moppet had for us, but that didn't matter, because moments later we were at Chequers in the company of Boris Yeltsin.

The anecdote went on forever. Like all truly heroic bores, Mr Major does not spare a single detail, including President Yeltsin's footwiper and his own pillow.

The punchline — Russian interpreter bangs on door of local pub. "Open up, it's the President of Russia!" followed by reply from inside. "And this is the Kaiser!" — won loud applause. Yet I was puzzled. Surely the Chequers local is one place where world leaders would be found drinking most weekends. Indeed, it possibly was the Kaiser.

# Mountain ambush scatters fighters and halts advance Tables turned on Taliban



Jonathan Steele in Put-I-Khumi, north of the Salang Pass

THE Taliban Islamic militia admitted yesterday they had suffered their first serious losses in battle since seizing power across most of Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul, last month.

The tables were turned on Tuesday by an offensive, backed by heavy shelling, across the southern slopes of the strategic Salang Pass, by troops fighting under General

Ahmed Shah Massoud, former defence minister loyal to the country's deposed president.

The assault appeared to have scattered and badly damaged the Taliban, with reports claiming that a large Taliban force is trapped in the pass, cut off from their base at Gulbahar from which they had tried to advance into Gen Massoud's Panjshir valley stronghold. "There are no Taliban left in Gulbahar," a Western aid worker said.

He said a colleague in the Taliban headquarter town of Jabal-oe-Siraj, where the road to Gulbahar forks from the

main highway up to the Salang Pass, had counted 39 dead Taliban being brought down the highway during a single hour late on Tuesday.

The aid worker said the Taliban had suffered at least 100 dead and many more wounded in fighting that raged overnight as Gen Massoud's men shelled concentrations of fighters and reinforcements heading for the Salang Pass across the Hindu Kush mountain range.

The Taliban claimed to have fended off the attack but, unusually, conceded 15 dead. "It was hard to contain the attacks and the fighting was

very serious, but we brought up heavy reinforcements and halted it. We are now in control," said Maulavi Khairullah Haqani, the Salang battlefield Taliban commander.

But his front line at Qalabak, about nine miles north of Jabal-oe-Siraj, was 13 miles south of where it was before the attack began on Tuesday morning.

Troops loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the powerful warlord of northern Afghanistan who entered the war against the Taliban on Tuesday, held key positions higher up the pass but did not take part in the ambush.

He has been careful not to take the offensive against the Taliban after accusing them of putting Afghanistan's security at risk by not calling a ceasefire and joining talks for a coalition government.

The ambush — on the southern slopes of the pass at Qalabak, a village a few miles north of Jabal-oe-Siraj — was launched by Basir Salangi, a local commander. His headquarters had been occupied a few days earlier by the Taliban who then used it as their front line base at the foot of the ascent towards the Salang tunnel.

Leader comment, page 5

# Court quiz row rapist gets life

Change in law urged after victim's six days in witness box reliving attack

Stuart Miller

A MULTIPLE rapist who provoked fury by cross-examining his victim about her ordeal for six days yesterday given two life sentences at the Old Bailey.

Ralston Edwards, aged 32, who has a long record of convictions for a rape and assaults on women, was convicted in August of twice raping Julia Mason over a 16-hour period. Sentencing him to life on each charge yesterday, Judge Ann Goddard told Edwards, of Catford, south-east London: "In my view, you are a danger to women which in the past you have clearly demonstrated."

Edwards' lengthy trial caused a public outcry and led to calls for a change in the law that allowed an alleged sex attacker defending himself to cross-examine his victim. During the cross-examination he wore the same clothes as he did for the



A drawing of Raistan Edwards (right) in court at the Old Bailey during his rape trial, in which he defended himself

will thoroughly review the law." Julie Bindel, of the International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship, said she hoped the sentence would deter other attackers. "One change which could be implemented immediately is an exemption clause preventing anybody accused of a sexual offence from cross-examining their victims. We do it with cases involving children and it should be introduced for women."

But Linda Diggin, co-ordinator of Rights for Women, said: "What we do think would help is the use of video

links to protect women. But people do have a right by law to defend themselves. The issue is how women are treated by the law."

Judge Goddard said Edwards had shown no sign of remorse, but made it clear that she had not increased the sentence because he had contested the charges or defended himself.

"I told the jury they might think you were single-minded and determined during the trial," she told him. "That is part of your character. You are an intelligent man. You see things only from your point of view. If you want to inflict harm on a woman, you

will, and you do not consider your victims at all."

Edwards had blighted Ms Mason's life, she added.

Edwards had a previous conviction for breaking into a young woman's flat and raping her in front of her 16-

month-old-baby in 1994. He was once acquitted of rape after defending himself. He had also been jailed for violent assaults on women, including his wife, whom he once beat with sticks and flex over an eight-hour period.



Julia Mason: cross-examination was likened being raped again PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK ST GEORGE

'Having to face questions from the defendant in court must be terrifying beyond belief'

Helen Peggs  
Victim Support

# BMW pledges to kickstart Rover

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

THE German car company BMW yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to boost production at its Rover subsidiary by 80 per cent, to 800,000 cars a year.

But it warned there would be no increase in jobs and the UK car company would remain in the red until the turn of the century.

Pledging to invest £500 million a year in Rover until the year 2000, Walter Hassekus, the UK company's chief executive, said BMW would replace Rover's entire model range to make it more profitable and to simplify its manufacturing. Dr Hassekus, who became chief executive six weeks ago amid reports of disquiet about the UK company's performance, said the parent group wanted to put Rover "on the map as a very British, highly successful, respected and profitable car company". He added: "British means elegance, style, relaxed motoring. The world is waiting for British motor cars not in

their millions, but in their hundreds of thousands."

But he warned there was a gap in the quality of Rovers and BMW standards. This was partly due to the greater age of Rover designs. Investment would put this right.

Dr Hassekus was speaking in the wake of reports that BMW and Rover were at loggerheads over investment plans and the pace of new car development. Last week BMW announced it was to invest in a South American engine plant to supply engines for the new version of the Mini. Some of the higher output at Rover would follow the launch of the new Mini. Other new products would account for the remainder of the increase. The strategy would not create new jobs, given that BMW wants Rover to boost productivity by 4 per cent a year. In a veiled warning to the Government, Dr Hassekus said the BMW board would need nearly £80 million of state aid to safeguard 2,000 Rover jobs by going ahead with a new £500 million engine plant in the West Midlands. Pointing out that BMW

would take a "commercial decision" on where to place the plant, Dr Hassekus indicated that putting it outside Britain would spell an end to Rover engine manufacturing within 10 years. The Government has yet to respond to BMW's request.

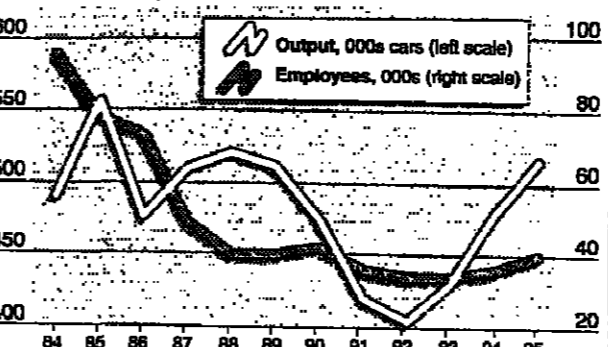
BMW bought Rover from British Aerospace for £800 million in 1994. The group has already invested £1.5 billion in the UK company. Brushing aside suggestions that BMW was disappointed with the acquisition, Dr Hassekus said

Rover would turn in a profit on BMW's conservative accounting standards only by 1999.

By then BMW would have invested £3 billion in the group. The German parent was investing for the long term. In an attempt to dispel fears that Rover would be swallowed up by BMW, Dr Hassekus said the two companies would share engines and electronics, which account for an increasing proportion of the cost of a car.

BL/Rover

Output and employees



Among the Times Radio Times future guests can learn how to get a word in edgeways.

Radio Times

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Bacon from...  
Kamal Ahmed on...

Disharmony over song's 'big thank you' for grass that's jewelled and jets refuelled



The Reverend Andrew Parsons outside St Mary's, Wroxham, and, right, with the choir which is divided over his choice of music



PHOTOGRAPHS: BRYN COLTON

Bacon frying, vicar trying, choir retiring

Kamal Ahmed on the row over songs of 'Christianic renewal' that sparked a walk-out by members of a church choir

IT IS a volatile mixture. The Church, traditional music and the thorny question of the need to modernise. Yesterday St Mary's Church in Wroxham, Norfolk, was rent asunder after most of its highly respected choir walked out over a row about the choice of music. The vicar, the Reverend Andrew Parsons, wanted something modern that the children could relate to. Choir members wanted something more traditional. Carole Tims, the choir director, was one of those who walked out, followed by three other male singers and 11 chorists. The organist, Nick Walsley, has also refused to play until the "sensitive issue" is sorted out. For a choir of 22 it has been a big blow. At the centre of the rumpus is the hymn Autumn Days, which critics say is illustrative of a general downward trend in the quality of church music which in the past has produced such favourites as Abide With Me, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven and Dear Lord and Father of Mankind. Autumn Days is rather more parochial. It tells children to say a "big thank you" for the smell of frying bacon in the morning, jets refuelling in the sky and the "taste of apple pie". Mr Walsley described the hymn, in which God is not mentioned, as "theologically vague". Parishioners first heard of the problems in an article written by Mr Parsons in the church newsletter. "Following intemperate remarks made recently at the church council and in the vestry it has been impossible to continue," he wrote. "The church council decided to accept the resignations." Some church members are particularly angry about evangelical songs chosen at joint services St Mary's holds with the local United Reform Church. There has also been controversy over the timing of Sunday services. "We have offered a number of compromises but none of them seems to suit," said Mr Parsons, whose three children still sing in the choir. "Some people have been somewhat inflexible over the choice of hymns. But we are recruiting again and the choir will continue." Mrs Tims said: "Most of the parents are devastated and angry about what has been going on. There was frustration at the direction the church council wanted the choir to follow. Some members did not always care for the music chosen at the joint services with the United Reform Church. They did not like the tunes.

ANCIENT Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways! Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, In glorious robes of life that shine, In deeper reverence praise. In simple trust like theirs who heard, Behind the Syrian sea, The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word Rise up and follow thee. O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above, Where Jesus loved to abide with thee, The silence of eternity, Interrupted by love! Drop thy still dews of quietness, Till all our stringing cease; Tune from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess The beauty of thy peace. Revolve through the hearts of our desire Thy goodness and thy love, Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm! J.G. Whittier, 1807-92

Songs of praise: 'Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire' or 'Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling'

"It has been heartbreaking. I feel bereaved. Not singing at St Mary's has left a huge hole in my life." Autumn Days was written by Estelle White, a former nun who has been cited as one of the founders of the "Christianic renewal" movement of the 1970s. A group of composers decided to try to broaden the appeal of church services by writing more accessible music. Other hymns in the genre include Peace Perfect Peace and As Gentle as Silence, which both appear in the Celebration Hymnal for Every- one. Autumn Days appears in the BBC publication Come and Praise, widely used for primary school assemblies. "Estelle White has done a huge amount to encourage people back into church," said Joan McCrimmon, who has published Ms White's hymns for more than 30 years. "Some people think that it is only pre-19th century music that people should be singing, but there has to be variety. Children love her work. I find it terrible that she is being criticised."

Dirty tricks case officer wins appeal

COLIN Wallace, a former army officer who blew the whistle on a covert black propaganda campaign in Northern Ireland, demanded a full inquiry into his prosecution for manslaughter after his conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Mr Wallace, who has fought for 16 years to clear his name, said evidence at his trial was "manufactured and manipulated". He believed his friend, Jonathan Lewis, was killed by criminal members of the antiquities trade in Brighton. He said: "The police have evidence of this but have suppressed it." He said his lawyers had been passed police reports — not disclosed at the appeal hearing — indicating a link with the antiquities trade. He also called for a government investigation into how his case was handled. His solicitor, Jim Nichol, told the Guardian there was "strong evidence" to suggest the security services were "helping the prosecution along". His suspicions were first aroused when he learnt that the security services had privately approached the Civil Service Appeal Board in 1975 after Mr Wallace was dismissed from his secret role in Northern Ireland. He pointed to a passage in the judgment — described as significant by Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Connell — referring to a pre-trial agreement between the prosecution and defence that there would be no mention of Mr Wallace's brief involvement in a course with SAS soldiers. The court noted the agreement was "frustrated" by the publication in a number of newspapers at a crucial point in the trial of a photograph of Mr Wallace posing in full SAS uniform. The defence had argued that the pictures "could well have led the jury to disbelieve him when he denied any training in unarmed combat". The judges also pointed out that Ian West, a senior Home Office pathologist, said evidence he gave about how Mr Lewis was struck unconscious was obtained "from a conversation with an American secret service agent". Mr West described the blow to Mr Lewis — "like a pile-driver" — as "most unusual". That, said the judges, was "something of an understatement". Neither Dr West nor Professor Keith Mait — who said Mr Lewis was hit by a "karate-type chop" — had ever seen, or heard, or read of a fracture caused that way. But the court's key finding was that new evidence — now supported by Dr West — showed Mr Lewis was struck shortly before he drowned. Though the prosecution conceded this on appeal, a central plank of its case at the trial was that Mr Wallace had knocked out Mr Lewis earlier and had hidden the body for several hours. The appeal court said the trial judge had therefore misdirected the court and the jury had probably discounted evidence from a crucial witness, Amanda Metcalfe, who said she saw Mr Lewis long after the prosecution claimed he had been knocked out. Mr Wallace had initially lied to the police about when he last saw Mr Lewis. But the appeal court could not rule out a reasonable possibility of an innocent explanation, including Mr Wallace's "amorous but not adulterous" relationship with Mr Lewis' wife, a colleague at work. Ann Curran, QC, for the prosecution, asked for a retrial. The Crown Prosecution Service said it could not comment because the case remained sub judice. Mr Wallace, 53, said he would be seeking compensation. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1981, and was released on parole in 1986. He is now director of a management consultancy.



Colin Wallace: claims trial evidence was manipulated

Police may now face race claims

Clare Dyer on the implications of officers of a ground-breaking appeal court ruling. A GROUND-breaking ruling by the Court of Appeal yesterday opens the way for compensation claims against the police for race discrimination. Three judges held for the first time that police are covered by the Race Relations Act because they provide services to the public when they answer 999 calls or give other assistance. But Lords Justices Peter Gibson, Otton and Hutchison ruled that the act does not apply to the Metropolitan Police as a body, and that claims can only be brought against individual officers. Unless overturned by the House of Lords, the ruling means that officers could face unnecessary suffering to a dog. Six months later she appeared in court but was acquitted after the prosecution offered no evidence. Yesterday's ruling, which followed a police application to strike her claim out, may not help Ms Farah because the case was brought by a teenage Somali refugee, Zeinab Farah, who alleges that officers from the Met wrongly arrested and prosecuted her after responding to a 999 call. She claims that in July 1994, when she was 17, she called the police after she and her 10-year-old cousin were attacked by white teenagers who set a dog on them. She alleges that instead of helping her, officers from Greenwich and Lewisham stations in south London arrested her without cause, detained her, and charged her with affray, assault and causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. A Met spokesman said: "Although the Metropolitan Police Commissioner has won this appeal, the case raises very important issues relating to the carrying out of police duties. The commissioner reaffirms his resolve to provide a police service which operates in a non-discriminatory manner, but is concerned that this judgment obscures many of these important issues." Mike Bennett, spokesman for the London branch of the Police Federation, said: "I would condemn any police officer who acts discriminatorily against any member of the public, but this will make the job harder rather than easier. I would hate to see the day when we treat black people better than any other member of the public simply to protect ourselves from civil action."

Insurers fear £640m Clarke tax ruse

special dividend pay-outs. The Government has also decided to sell off the air traffic control system. Mr Clarke needs to pull in about £1.6 billion of additional revenues in order to cut income tax rates by 1p in the pound. He is under increasing backbench pressure to produce a tax cutting budget to improve the Conservative Party's chances of winning the general election. A rise to 5 per cent in the insurance premium tax would add more than £20 a year to the average family's premiums. But it would penalise the poorest households, which spend about 11 per cent of their gross income on motor, house and contents cover. Taxes on insurance premiums were announced in the 1993 budget and came into effect a year later. Then the Chancellor played down fears that the new tax — which is imposed on household, motor and health policies — would be steadily increased over the years and he presented it as an alternative to VAT on premiums. Competition in the insurance industry in recent years has held down premiums, which has largely disguised the impact of the new tax. "This has meant that insurers have been unable to prove that business has been lost because of it. But the Association of British Insurers has warned, for example, that the take-up of insurance by some socio-economic groups in Scotland is "already worryingly low". The Treasury is understood to believe that the high operating costs of insurance companies should be reduced to minimise the impact on consumers of a 5 per cent rate of premium tax. Insurance industry executives have warned the Treasury that higher premium tax could discourage mortgage protection insurance and private health cover, which the Government is keen to encourage to reduce pressures on the National Health Service. The Association of British Insurers has also predicted that a higher rate of premium tax on motor insurance could mean more uninsured motorists on the roads.

Among the Tory foot soldiers the stall creating the biggest stir was the Private Hearing Aid Dispensing display, which attracted a long line of delegates, taking advantage of conference week to get a free hearing check. Jim White at Bournemouth

G2 cover story

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A voice at the heart of Europe or 'craven capitulation?' Single currency remains conference issue dogging Tories as firm line from Major and Rifkind in docile debate is undermined by fringe attack



John Major retrieving his jacket after conducting an informal question and answer session with party chairman Brian Mawhinney and delegates

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

## Major sidelines sceptics

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday joined forces to cajole a docile Tory conference into accepting the cabinet's wait-and-see policy for the single European currency — despite the strong groundswell of hostility among activists at Bournemouth.

In contrast to the packed and enthusiastic meetings on the fringe — attended by up to 1,000 predominantly Eurosceptical representatives — the conference debate on Europe was as tightly-controlled as Labour's a week ago when key sceptics like Peter Shore were not allowed to speak.

No senior Tory sceptic surfaced to challenge the Foreign Secretary's measured defence of the Cabinet's compromise line. Nor did a single speaker urge the Prime Minister to face to face to reject British membership of the euro this side of 2002 or — the latest sceptics' position — "in the first wave" in 1999 when he did an informal question-and-answer session in his shirtsleeves.

"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years. And if it cracked it open then it would impact on this country as well, so we need to make sure in the national interest that we have Britain's voice in this debate."

To reinforce the unity theme — which reflects a pragmatic consensus between the Cabinet's pro-European majority and the sceptics' grassroots strength — Stephen Dorrell, the moderate Health Secretary, made a speech on the conference fringe in which he called on Britain to take on all comers in its fight to deliver its vision for the EU and de-

### Stating their cases on either side of the euro divide



**JOHN MAJOR**  
"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years. I could earn easy applause by immediately ruling out Britain's membership of the single currency (applause). If I did that, and I then had no British voice in this great debate that will affect us, what will I say to the British nation when they say to me 'Prime Minister, how can you protect or advance our position if you have unilaterally ruled yourself out of the discussions upon something that will affect us and affect the whole of Europe?'"



**NORMAN LAMONT**  
"There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if the heart is diseased. ... Europe has its own passport, its own flag, its own foreign policy. If that is not political integration towards statehood, I don't know what is. This repulsive doctrine is the complete opposite of what Conservatives believe. It is utterly craven to say that we should go along with Europe because otherwise we would be left out. That isn't a policy, that's capitulation. ... Brussels is not at the heart of Europe and never will be. The reason is blindingly obvious. You only have to look at the map."



**MALCOLM RIFKIND**  
"I know that some of you would like us to take a decision now to rule in or rule out British participation in a single currency. I respect these feelings. I want to share with you the reasoning why the Prime Minister and the Cabinet believe that a final decision at this moment would be unwise. A single currency first of all may never happen, may not happen for several years, cannot happen before 1999. The nation therefore loses nothing by deferring a decision. But we would damage our interests if we took a decision now ruling out a single currency."



**LEON BRITAN**  
"Who's going to [fight battles] for us if we look as if we view our closest partners with distrust hovering upon contempt? That's the tone adopted by the Eurosceptic press and it's deadly for the real interests of this country. But the sceptics disagree. ... Their conclusion: we should deliver an ultimatum to our EU partners: 'Accept the Europe which we want or we'll leave. ... Their argument is riddled with holes. Who on earth would ever agree to that? We are not giving down the road to a United States of Europe. What is on the agenda is not all unpalatable to Britain."

ounced moves to widen the political powers of the EU institutions.

By evoking a head-on clash the conference managers managed to duck the one question which many activists, and leading MPs and

peers, believe could save the party from defeat next spring. The conference even managed to give Mr Rifkind a generous standing ovation after his own suave performance.

Labour was quick to accuse the Tories of being "split down the middle on Europe", but the reality of an imminent election inhibited such instinctive rebels as Lord Tebbit from trying to capture the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years ago. Instead ministers piled

on counter-charges that they were not giving down the road to a United States of Europe. What is on the agenda is not all unpalatable to Britain."

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expression of virtue. Margaret Thatcher got the British budget rebates by being prepared to be isolated.

Like most cabinet members this week he emphasised Britain's global role and traditions. "But we are part of Europe. No one can ignore the facts of geography. Our fate is intertwined with theirs. The national interest would be seriously damaged by 'premature' decisions."

But the fears of those calling for an immediate decision on European economic and monetary union would not be ridden over roughshod. He contrasted the Tory commitment to a referendum if necessary with Labour's refusal to give such an assurance.

"The debate is not about whether we should be in or out of Europe. The debate is about what kind of European Union is right for Britain and Europe."

The crucial intervention, however, was the Prime Minister's own. In his Q & A session, Mr Major argued that Europe was changing and would continue to change.

"Our concern and our determination is to make sure that it changes in a way that is acceptable to the United Kingdom and not damaging to the United Kingdom."

The EU's priority should not be new political institutions but to draw in the former Soviet block states. As for the single currency, if it goes ahead, it will have an impact in one way or another, upon every nation in the European Union whether or not that particular country is in the single currency."

Lord Archer confesses a thing for a certain Marquise de Chocholet "only allowed to be eaten when my wife is not around", while Michael Portillo opts for a hunk of Best-ever Cheddar.

John Redwood, needless to say, goes for fresh fruit salad "made with English Cox's, not French Golden Delicious", while Treasury Economic Secretary Angela Knight chooses zabaglione "because it was very romantic and dishy student". At which point, I draw a tasteful veil ...

**B**UT not before reminding visitors to the conference in search of a cookbook more appropriate to the political mood to seek out a volume by the ever-popular Clare Lattimer. Its title? *The Comfort Food Cookbook*.

**Blair has captured public mood, confesses Portillo**

**T**HE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, yesterday acknowledged that Tony Blair had effectively captured the popular mood.

Speaking at a conference fringe meeting, he said the Labour leader had become adept at gauging the state of public opinion.

"For the moment he has developed to a high degree the skill of finding out what people want to hear, then saying it," he said.

Although he strongly attacked Mr Blair, accusing him of adopting "a sort of Conservative language by way of disguise", his words were a tacit acknowledgement of the difficulties that the Tories are facing.

## Kenneth Clarke

Chancellor of the Exchequer

### Progress report

A brave or reckless year, according to taste. Yet he is the Cabinet's pivotal pre-election figure — unless John Major takes anti-Chancellor's advice (he won't) and replaces him with tax-cutter Peter Lilley before Budget Day, November 26. Always a bruiser in the Denis Healey league, Clarke has not trimmed with the Euro-sceptic wind as others, e.g. Nigel Fisher, have done. Quite the reverse. Since Douglas Hogg's 1995 retirement left him as Public Enemy No 1 to the Tory Right and their Fleet Street allies, he has become even more outspoken.

When John Major was under pressure to concede a single currency referendum this spring — the latest salami-slicing demand from the sceptics — the Chancellor came close to resignation. He believes that speaking out is the only way to maintain the Cabinet's agreed compromise to keep options open on Europe. Major's warm praise of "my friend Ken" on TV last weekend does not disguise his frustration at Clarke's provocations, even though many alleged gaffes are media-constructed. Clarke has managed many economic decisions, notably interest rates, well, flying by the seat of his pants. But the tax-and-debt hole remains a big one for whoever wins the election, and inflation may be lurking. Meanwhile the "feel-good factor" has returned, but ministers do not get the credit — the legacy of the sterling fiasco and the Lamont-Clarke tax issue? Clarke has two Budget choices: the responsible, cautious one with no unjustified tax cuts (i.e. none at all) which he promises, and a cut-and-run Budget. The one would save his reputation and (like his friend, Roy Jenkins) lose the election. The other just might save the Tories.



### Today's performance

His primary aim is to escape from the conference hall alive and with his senses on. Many in the audience see him as the program's chief obstacle to a Blair Tory term. Last year he survived with a robust speech which coyly hinted at tax cuts. This time such hints may upset jilted financial markets. But he will resist the temptation to goad them on Europe.

### Prospects

Objectively grim. The new intake of Tory MPs — many of them aggressive, know-nothing young Thatcherites — are expected to make Bill Cash look like a Euro-moderate. But Clarke has done every big job in Whitehall and would be the best Blair-basher from the Opposition benches. Or, if he helps Major win and becomes a hero, he could be his successor. But don't bet on it.

### Today's business

- National Heritage (speaker Virginia Bottomley)
- Defence (Michael Portillo)
- Economy (Kenneth Clarke)
- Education and Employment (Gillian Shephard)
- Address to Conference (Michael Heseltine)

## Ministers get just desserts

### Bournemouth 96

**H**AVING a Cabinet minister or a senior Conservative to dinner can be a daunting occasion, wisely observes Fiona Hodgson in her introduction to a delightful new publication launched here yesterday.

Cabinet Puddings — "the recipe book that reveals the desserts that Ministers Most Desire" — is a fund-raising effort devised by Mrs Hodgson, whose husband Robin is chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations. Among the delights we find John Major's recipe for chocolate brandy whip (good??).

The PM admits that it may not do much for his waistline, something that was beginning to be evident from his shirtsleeve performance yesterday.

Lord Archer confesses a thing for a certain Marquise de Chocholet "only allowed to be eaten when my wife is not around", while Michael Portillo opts for a hunk of Best-ever Cheddar.

John Redwood, needless to say, goes for fresh fruit salad "made with English Cox's, not French Golden Delicious", while Treasury Economic Secretary Angela Knight chooses zabaglione "because it was very romantic and dishy student". At which point, I draw a tasteful veil ...

**B**UT not before reminding visitors to the conference in search of a cookbook more appropriate to the political mood to seek out a volume by the ever-popular Clare Lattimer. Its title? *The Comfort Food Cookbook*.

**W**ALTER SWEENEY, sitting precariously on the smallest Tory majority at Westminster (he holds Vale of Glamorgan by a mere 19) seems to know something the rest of us have missed. Writing in the conference issue of the House Magazine, Sweeney announces: "Ken Clarke as Chancellor laid the foundations for Britain to be the most successful economy in Europe. I know that John Redwood will not let us down in carrying that work forward over the coming months and years."

**S**PEAKING of Ken Clarke (Oranges in Syrup), and assuming that he is still Chancellor, he should also note an interview with Peter Lilley (*Trouble Talk*) in the Young Conservatives' mag. Campaigner. Would you like the job of Chancellor, the interviewer asks. "It has always been my longer-term ambition to be Chancellor of the Exchequer," replies Lilley. "I have never conceded that, least of all from Kenneth Clarke."

**N**OT only does John Gummer fail to declare himself in the great bidding contests, but he also missed his conference speech yesterday with the words: "This is a speech which will get no coverage in the press." And who am I to disagree?

**N**ORTHERN Ireland minister, Michael Antram, is the latest victim of the Today programme's strong-arm methods at Bournemouth. Following the foiled kidnap attempt on Stephen Dorrell (Fruit Salad with Crème Fraîche and Brulée Top) on Monday, Today heavies grabbed Antram for a 7.10am interview on the Lisburn bombing. Straight into this studio, minister, he was called, as the door leant behind him. Through the wall Antram listens helplessly as the voice of Jim Naughtie complains: "We're supposed to have Michael Antram but he hasn't turned up."

*Martin Keble*

## Federalism by stealth warning from Lamont

### The Guardian Debate

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

**T**HE former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, claimed the Tories "made a mistake" in passing the Single European Act which formally took Britain into the single market, as he condemned moves towards closer integration with Europe as "a repulsive doctrine".

The self-declared Eurosceptic called for "more honesty" in the debate over Europe as he clashed with the fiercely pro-European former Cabinet minister, Sir Leon Brittan — now vice-president of the European Commission — at a Guardian debate on whether Britain should be at the heart of Europe.

Sir Leon urged Tories to pull together on the single currency, and said that "if we can't be united on this, we don't deserve to win the general election".

Although he is strongly in favour of a single currency, he is backing John Major's wait-and-see approach.

In his only appearance on the fringe to discuss Europe, Mr Lamont stopped short of advocating that Britain should withdraw from the EU, but drew strong support from the many Eurosceptics in the audience as he set out his concerns about the dangers of "federalism by stealth".

Passing the Single European Act in 1986 was a mistake. "The idea that we are winning the argument on political union is not right. Europe has its own passport, its own flag, its own foreign policy. ... If that is not political integration towards statehood, I don't know what is." Moves towards a closer relationship with Europe was a repulsive doctrine which

was "the complete opposite of what Conservatives believe. The electorate must know where the buck stops".

Sir Leon said that leaving the EU would be "an economic, political and strategic disaster for Britain", and denied that there was any "inexorable tide leading to a federal Europe".

Being at the heart of Europe did not mean "passively accepting everything that our European partners want, or every new proposal from Brussels".

Mr Lamont was strongly critical of the power assumed by Brussels, and the "complete farce" of subsidiarity which was now a one-way street. "The problem is that Europe never repatriates power. Once it's there, it's gone there forever."

To thunderous applause, he said: "There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if the heart is diseased. And we cannot be at the heart of Europe because Europe is going in a direction we don't want to go in."

## Relaxed Major comes up with the right answers

Even Labour admitted that it was a slick performance. Ewen MacAskill reports

**J**OHAN Major visited a Jemmy Bournemouth conference hall late on Tuesday night. Along with the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and other aides, he stood on the platform, getting a feel of the hall.

According to officials, that was the extent of his rehearsal for the big Conservative conference innovation, the Prime Minister's question-and-answer session.

He told an aide beforehand that he expected the press to be cynical about the exercise, that they would think all the questions had been selected in advance. He even referred to it during the hour-long session in which he took questions from the floor on issues that ranged across Post Office privatisation, union power, gun control

and BSE. Faced with one complicated question, he said that that proved the exercise had not been orchestrated.

Jacket off, he paced the platform, determinedly casual. Stilted and awkward in delivering speeches, now he sounded relaxed. He told an anecdote about going for a walk with Boris Yeltsin during a visit to Chequers, and he rewarded Mr Yeltsin without too much trouble to drop into the local.

It was closed. A Russian security man knocked on the door and shouted: "It is the President of Russia." A call came back: "And I'm the Kaiser." The conference liked it and the journalists, some of whom had heard it half a dozen times, agreed his delivery was getting better.

That would have been a good point to stop. Dr Ma-

whinney did the Prime Minister no favours by taking more questions. Finishing with one on the impact of BSE on farmers.

But Mr Major had done enough. He was given a standing ovation that was more genuine and warmer than the one that normally follows his end-of-the-week conference speech.

When it was over, an aide reported back that the mood among the journalists had been generally favourable. Even the Labour Party privately acknowledged later that it had been a smooth performance.

The object of the exercise, apart from playing to Mr Major's strength, was not so much to impress those in the hall but television viewers, the voters, those who normally find the people who attend Tory conferences a turn-off. It would not have harmed him.

At the end, Mr Major said he would do it again next year.

Russian military not planning mutiny, analysts say

# Minister confronts disgruntled forces

David Fairhall  
Defence Correspondent

**T**HE Russian defence minister flies into Vladivostok today to confront a growing crisis in his demoralised, often unpaid, armed forces which could end in widespread disintegration, if not outright mutiny.

Vladivostok, home of the former Soviet Pacific Fleet, was the scene last month of a one-day strike and blockade by dockyard workers, which will be repeated on a wider national scale at the end of the month. Meanwhile crime is reportedly on the increase among servicemen, including senior officers, and draft dodging is rife.

Independent confirmation of the crisis facing the newly appointed minister, General Igor Rodionov — whose predecessor, General Pavel Grachev, was accused of condoning corruption and accepting bribes — came yesterday from the authoritative London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The armed forces are voting with their feet," said the

deputy director Rose Gottemoeller, presenting the latest edition of the institute's Military Balance. "Troops are selling their weapons."

But the institute does not believe Russian forces are on the brink of mutiny, as suggested recently by President Boris Yeltsin's security chief, General Alexander Lebed. "It's an extremely serious problem but there are no signs that troops will drive into the Kremlin in tanks," Ms Gottemoeller said.

Gen Lebed's warning, she argued, should be seen in the context of disagreement between the defence and finance ministries over the size of next year's military budget — which the institute calculates has fallen by 45 per cent in real terms since 1992.

Gen Lebed left Nato headquarters in Brussels yesterday after his first visit to the West, having impressed officials with his approach to the contentious issue of Nato's expansion into eastern Europe. "Our feeling was that here we had a man with whom you could negotiate," said one official.

In response to lobbying by Gen Lebed and Gen Rodionov,

President Yeltsin has promised to make military reforms a priority. Earlier this week, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, proposed a new tax to help the army. He has also promised to revise its draft 1997 budget.

Russian troops complain of being underfed, poorly clothed, and unpaid for months at a time.

The collapse of morale has been aggravated by the humiliations of the Chechnya campaign, in which 30,000 people are estimated to have died in efforts to gain control of the province. "The best the Russian armed forces can now do is to contain rebel military action... until a longer term political solution is found," the institute says.

● The annual value of the worldwide arms trade has stabilised at about \$20 billion — less than half the 1980s average — according to the institute. Most of the reduction occurred in former Soviet and Warsaw Pact markets. The United States has emerged as the dominant supplier, exporting arms valued at \$10 billion a year, followed by Britain, France and Russia, then China and Germany.



Striking Serbian taxi drivers mass in central Belgrade yesterday, demanding tax cuts and cheaper imports of second-hand cars to renew their fleets. PHOTOGRAPH: EMIL VAS

# Opera's opening chorus marred by disharmony

The Teatro Real, after a pricey revamp, prepares to face its public. Adela Gooch in Madrid reports

**C**HANDELIERS crashing to the floor, an architect slumping to his death on stage, huge cost overruns and bitter political infighting — Madrid's revamped Royal Opera house, due to open next year as one of the largest in Europe, has been haunted by such phantoms since the project began.

Even the work chosen for the premiere has caused controversy. It was to have been Wagner's Parsifal, with Placido Domingo in the star role. But the conservative government decided a home-grown composer was more appropriate and, after sacking the opera director appointed by the former socialist administration, opted for Manuel de Falla's La Vida Breve instead, with Parsifal to follow.

As well as an opera house, the Teatro Real has been a gunpowder store, a barracks, the lower house of parliament and a dance hall.

The revamp was one of many grandiose projects designed to celebrate 1992 — the anniversary of the discovery of America.

The difficulties soon began to mirror those of the original construction, which lasted more than 30 years and was hampered by a chronic shortage of funds.

The opera house was opened in 1850, patronised by Queen Isabella II, herself something of an opera buff: her corsets were once found on the floor of the royal box.

After frequent closures, the building was turned into a concert hall in 1965. The projected cost of returning it to its original use was first put at 5,000 million pesetas (\$25 million). Four times that amount has been spent. In 1992, one of the architects had a heart attack and died while showing a group of journalists around. Last year the cen-

tral hall's crystal chandelier smashed to the ground. Equally spectacular have been the political battles between conservatives and socialists.

The new government is committed to completing the restoration, although it moved swiftly to appoint its own. The opening has been set for October 18, 1997.

The artistic director, Stéphane Lissner, who survived the purge, announced ambitious plans this week.

He hopes the opera house will attract singers with artistic prestige rather than millionaire payments. No one will receive more than 3 million pesetas for a performance. Mr Lissner, largely responsible for making a success of the Châtelet opera house in Paris, hopes the top Spanish star — Domingo,Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras and Alfredo Kraus — will perform.

The soprano Teresa Berganza will run opera studios to train new Span-

ish singers. Mr Lissner also plans to organise late night performances aimed at young people and to promote Spain's operetta genre, the zarzuela. Gloomy critics point out that, unlike Barcelona, Madrid has little operatic tradition. The Barcelona Liceu burned down but is being rebuilt and will provide stiff competition.

Budget austerity will threaten subsidies, and the opening may be marred by building work in the square behind the opera house.

Supporters of the opera house argue that the revamp has been comparatively cheap and that state-of-the-art installations will attract international stars.

Others mutter that they would not be surprised to see flamenco singers performing there.

# Turks up arms budget

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

**T**URKEY plans to spend \$98.5 billion over the next 30 years on defence — roughly double its current expenditure on what is already the second largest military force in Nato.

An official said yesterday that the government would spend about \$3.2 billion each year up to 2030 for projects to modernise land, sea and air forces.

"Turkey is already spending about \$1.6 billion every year for defence and we are targeting to double appropriations allocated to the defence industry through increases in the defence industry fund and the budget," he said.

Land forces would receive 750 helicopters, 3,000 tanks and 48,000 other vehicles. The navy's share would include 14 frigates, nine submarines and 35 amphibious landing boats. The air force could expect 640 planes and 440 air defence

weapons systems. The foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said after a meeting with the Turkish General Staff that the programme would involve foreign partnerships and the private sector.

One aim is to expand the defence industry in Turkey, which currently meets only 20 per cent of the armed forces' needs.

A strong military force has always been seen as essential to meet potential threats on Turkey's borders. It has had difficult relations over the years with Russia and Iran to the east, Syria and Iraq to the south and Bulgaria and Greece to the west.

Meanwhile, the latest Aegean brushfire was extinguished yesterday when Athens returned the Turkish pilot of an F-16 jet it crashed after being intercepted by Greek fighters on Tuesday. His co-pilot is still missing.

The incident happened on the last day of joint military exercises in the southern Aegean between Greece and

the Greek-Cypriot controlled government in Nicosia.

Greece claimed more than 50 air space violations since the exercises started on Monday. Turkey responded that the exercises were themselves a provocation likely to increase tensions.

Britain's special envoy to Cyprus, Sir David Hannay, said before attending meetings in Ankara yesterday that it was "worrying that both sides on the island continue an arms race".

Meanwhile on the eastern flank, a Turkish offensive against Kurdish separatist fighters has spilled over into Iraq.

A total of 255 guerrillas are reported to have been killed in four days, while 11 Turkish soldiers were said to have died.

A military statement yesterday said that the Turkish air force had killed 64 Kurdish separatist fighters and injured 27 in bombing raids on a camp at Zap, 12 miles into Iraq.

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# A bus ride to brotherhood

## Gore supporters quietly await the new millennium



Spike Lee, director of *Get On The Bus*, the first of a wave of black pride movies. It was made wholly with black movie...

Spike Lee's film about last year's Million Man March is challenging negative stereotypes of black males. Jonathan Freedland in Washington reports

**T**HE Million Man March is heading for the movies. Director Spike Lee, actor Wesley Snipes, lawyer Johnnie Cochran and dozens of black celebrities have joined forces to celebrate an event hailed as a landmark in African-American history with a film. Get On The Bus follows 12 black men as they trek from Los Angeles to Washington DC, the first anniversary of the march, the controversial surrounding the Million Man March, organised by the black separatist Louis Farrakhan. The film's only white character — played by stand-up comedian Richard Belzer — is a Jewish bus driver who fears he is indirectly aiding the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader. Mr Farrakhan will appear in the film, but only in news footage showing his address to the march. "We all know what happened at the march," said Lee, whose films *She's Gotta Have It*, *Jungle Fever* and *Malcolm X* have been accused of polarising American audiences on racial lines. "I didn't feel that we needed to dramatise the speeches. What is important is what brings together these different African-American men and what happens to them on this journey." Just like the march, Get On The Bus is a men-only affair.



Last year's Million Man March brought thousands of African Americans to Washington

At the time, organisers said the march had to be for men, because it was they who were "in trouble" — with one in three black American males either in jail or in the court system. To make the film, the cast and crew staged their own journey — a 17-day voyage from LA through Tennessee and Virginia to Washington — on real buses. With a budget tiny by Hollywood standards, they stayed in cheap motels and did without big studio frills. There are no big names among the cast, though the title song is sung by Michael Jackson. Get On The Bus is the first of a wave of black pride movies, most made with black money. Coming soon are *Fast Girls*, the true story of a female running team who overcame urban poverty, and *The Preacher's Wife* starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington — a remake of the 1947 classic *The Bishop's Wife*. Activists say that Lee —

Forget 1996, the vice-president and his challenger are thinking of 2000. Martin Walker in Washington reports

**B**ILLED as the first presidential debate of the 21st century, last night's confrontation between the United States vice-president, Al Gore, and his Republican challenger, Jack Kemp, was watched less for its impact on this year's election race than as a foretaste of the contest in 2000. Each man will end this election season as his party's front-runner for the next contest, a status awarded both by precedent and by party protocol. Last night's debate before a national audience estimated at 50 million was the perfect showcase for the next presidential contenders. "The spotlight on this debate is only partly about 1996 — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennium election of the year 2000," Stan Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, said yesterday. Mr Gore tried to discount such speculation: "It is of limited use to try to predict what could happen in either party four years from now, and I'm not spending any time on that. The old saying that six months is a long time in politics is applicable here." His protestations would be more convincing were it not for the "Gore-2000" and "Twelve More Years" signs that are starting to appear on the campaign trail, and the way that President Bill Clinton has boosted his running mate with an unprecedentedly high profile and workload.

club and business traditions to become also the party of the populist South and the religious right. Those trends will be intensified if Mr Gore and Mr Kemp do emerge as standard bearers. Indeed, the real political drama of the next four years could hinge on their success in consolidating their current positions. A Gore candidacy would solidify President Clinton's attempt to move the Democrats to the electoral centre and the suburban middle class. This will mean facing down the traditional Democratic leaders in Congress, from the protectionist congressman Dick Gephardt to the radicals who look to Jesse Jackson. A Kemp candidacy would signal a Republican Party ever less content to allow the Democrats to keep their electoral base in the cities, the ethnic minorities and among blue-collar, white voters. A passionate believer in supply-side economics who holds that the magical growth effects of tax cuts will eventually tame the US budget deficit, Mr Kemp is determined to fight for the black and Hispanic vote on equal terms, preaching enterprise as the way out of the ghetto. Mr Kemp and Mr Gore have been personal friends since

"The spotlight on this debate is only partly about this year — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennium election"

They served together in Congress, and each had to perform last night against his own nature. Mr Kemp had to restrain his verbosity and his tendency to drift into arcane theories about restoring the gold standard. Mr Gore had to engage and relax his usual wooden style on camera, while restraining his own delight in the scientific detail of global warming, and the intricacies of bureaucratic reform. Yet both had the urge to win, and had practised for the debate assiduously. Mr Gore has carried with him for the past week a card with a quote from Mr Kemp in 1983, warning that the Clinton-Gore economic policy would "destroy jobs, increase the deficit and cripple growth". The Gore mantra is now "Wrong, wrong, and wrong again, Jack Kemp", a line tailored to work as well in November 2000 as it could this year.

### Australia set to eradicate rabbits with killer virus

**A**USTRALIA has declared an "abiological war" on an estimated 200 million rabbits. The rabbit population was first exposed to the calicivirus disease near Wagga Wagga, where the New South Wales agriculture minister, Richard Amery, released 20 infected rabbits into the wild. Farmers blame rabbits for causing damage to crops and driving indigenous animals and plants to the verge of extinction. "It's probably the best news the environment has had in 20 years," said Mick Keogh, a farmer's representative. Government officials say the virus will eventually be released at 280 sites in all Australia's states and territories. Calicivirus kills rabbits in 12 to 24 hours by causing internal bleeding. The virus was first detected in Europe in 1984. The disease is expected to eradicate up to 80 per cent of the rabbit population within two years. Rabbits currently outnumber humans in Australia by around 10 to one.

### Mrs Netanyahu's dirty linen gets second public washing

**S**ARA Netanyahu, Israel's first lady and the prime minister's third wife, has been plunged into her second public scandal in six months. It was revealed yesterday that her former husband is to publish a book about their marriage, which promises to reveal even more than the outraged nanny who left Mrs Netanyahu's employment this summer after being accused of burning the soup. If Nannygate was a tasty appetiser for the Israeli tabloids, Doron Neuberger's book bids fair to be a juicy rib steak. The story broke on Israel's Channel Two television. Yesterday, Yediot Ahronoth, Israel's most popular daily, was off and running. Mr Neuberger, it said, is a kibbutznik who was married to Sara for six years, and had dated her for two years before the marriage. The couple were divorced in 1987.



Sara Netanyahu: Nannygate thrust her into the spotlight

of the book on computer disk. According to his friends, Neuberger possesses tapes and letters of his ex-wife that support his portrayal of an irresponsible woman. He claims that Sara's proximity to secret and classified documents could endanger the state. According to Yediot Ahronoth, Mr Neuberger approached a lawyer, who approached a publicist, who approached the prime minister's office. The would-be author then received a warning that "whoever throws a bomb into his neighbour's yard should expect one to be thrown his way too." The paper went on: "The attempts to dissuade continue. Several days later, Sara Netanyahu tried to no avail to contact her former husband. Netanyahu's lawyers, Yitzhak Molcho and David Shimron, then approached him. "Neuberger claims they offered him sums of money to bury the book. Sources at the prime minister's office claim the contrary, saying Neuberger came to them at his own initiative several days after the elections and demanded \$1 million not to publish the book. After negotiating with him, the prime minister's associates decided not to give in to his demands." So is Doron Neuberger a patriot or a cad? Will Sara sue? And did they have any household help? This newspaper will reveal all — as soon as Yediot Ahronoth gets its hands on the manuscript.

**Complex societal-like behaviour can be produced by "minimalist" models consisting of simple rules and equations embedded in small computer programs. Models for mayhem**  
OnLine G2 page 12

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When the economy boils

But for an election we'd be talking tax increases

WILL KENNETH CLARKE raise taxes in next month's budget? No, of course he won't. Although the wily Mr Clarke... who speaks today at Bournemouth to a party baying for tax cuts... keeps telling us that his budget judgment will be driven by fiscal prudence rather than politics...

tives will notch up their third economic disaster in 17 years (the first two being the unnecessarily severe recessions at the start and end of the 1980s). Of course we all like tax cuts, but there's a time and a place and it's not now. Consider. Real incomes (after allowing for tax and inflation) are already rising at 4 per cent. Retail spending is on a roll and the full effect of interest rate reductions are still to come.

This would take the PSBR to 3.5 per cent of GDP... well above the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling which the UK will want to undershoot whether we join Europe's single currency or not.

What Britain absolutely doesn't need now is tax cuts. They would threaten an unusually rosy outlook for the economy. The problem is that the recovery is far too biased towards consumption. If the fires of consumer spending are stoked up at the expense of investment and exports then the real prospect of a sustained recovery will have been wantonly thrown away and the Conserva-

After four years of moderate growth, the economy is poised to expand by 3 per cent and possibly by well over 4 per cent next year if the expansionary forces happen together. We should be trying to grow for as long as we can at a sustainable rate of between 2.5 per cent and 3 per cent. So far Mr Clarke has hardly put a foot wrong in macro-economic management since (and because of) the enforced devaluation of 1992. The heavy guns of the Conservative Party... including Mr Major yesterday... have thrown their support behind his pro-European stance.

An utter lack of understanding

The letter to Mr Major was not a stunt, but a serious appeal

THE joint appeal by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown for the issues surrounding the Hamilton case to be heard by a Tribunal of Inquiry rather than Sir Gordon Downey was a serious one deserving a considered response by the Prime Minister. It is a view that has now been supported by a diverse range of voices, including Geoffrey Robertson QC, The Times, Vernon Bogdanor, the Oxford Professor of Government, Andrew Neil, the former editor of the Sunday Times, and Doug Hoyle, who is a member of the very body in which Mr Major still has such faith.

By treating the appeal with such contempt Mr Major has ensured that MPs will have to raise the subject rather more publicly in parliament next week. The Prime Minister's preference for a quick, quiet, limited inquiry is understandable, but plagued by difficulties. One is that several of the members of Sir Gordon's committee are themselves compromised. Mr Hoyle's constituency party received £500 from Ian Greer and he has conceded that he must step down.

with the whips office about neutering the previous Hamilton hearing. We publish today further concerns about the way the committee's chairman, Tony Newton, ensured that Mr Al Fayed's previous complaints were never fully aired before MPs.

Sir Gordon's committee must themselves wonder whether they are now up to the task in hand. Here are just some of the areas they should consider: the conduct of the Tory Trade and Industry Committee between 1985 and 1990; the conduct of Tim Smith and Hamilton in accepting cash for questions; the extent to which Smith and Hamilton were vetted before being appointed to sensitive ministerial posts; Hamilton's conduct as a minister; the extra-parliamentary income of Hamilton dating back nearly 10 years; all payments made by Ian Greer to any MPs over the past 15 years; the relationship between Prime Minister and Mr Greer; the relationship between five named Tory MPs and Greer; the nature of the Lord Chancellor's assurances to the House of Lords; whether Hamilton lied to Mr Heseltine; the ethics of MPs accepting secret payment for acting on behalf of constituents; why Mr Major did not demand Smith's resignation as soon as he knew of his cash from Mr Fayed.

This list is by no means exhaustive. But it does indicate why a call for a Tribunal of Inquiry is no mere 'stunt'. And it does indicate why the Prime Minister's contemptuous dismissal of it is itself beneath contempt.

The Taliban menace in Kabul

Backing the fundamentalists is fundamentally wrong

NOW WE KNOW why the US has been so keen to establish contact with the fanatical Taliban militants in Afghanistan. Indeed it was in such a hurry last week that a team of diplomats almost flew into Kabul. The trip was only cancelled at the last moment when someone realised that it might not mesh too well with the image of Taliban militia pistol-whipping innocent women for not covering up completely.

"thinking". John Holtzman, deputy chief of the US mission in Islamabad (widely believed to be the CIA's station chief) is said to be eager to discuss points of dogma, sexual morality and clothing with the Taliban. Backing the Taliban may turn out to be premature for a different reason, after the setback which they suffered yesterday in the Salang Pass. It is unlikely that the tables will be reversed completely upon them, but the ex-government with its new Uzbek ally General Dostum will now dig in through the winter, posing a permanent challenge. The unfortunate people of Afghanistan will continue to suffer twice over from having first been occupied by Soviet forces and then liberated by the feuding mujahedin. Pakistan, with tacit US approval, has created a new monster to join those already in the field. But at least, so Chief Holtzman may argue, it is "our monster."



Letters to the Editor

A conference sketch

THE removal of offenders' ability to drive by disqualifying them from driving for non-motoring offences, as announced by the Home Secretary (Conservative Brian Peaker, October 9), needs to be questioned for two reasons. Is it workable, and is it an acceptable way of punishing people?

DOES Michael Howard's plan to take away the driving licences of criminals mean that if they are over 65 they will have their bus passes confiscated? Brian Peaker, October 9, needs to be questioned for two reasons. Is it workable, and is it an acceptable way of punishing people?

I WOULD be grateful if you would refrain from printing such large and colourful pictures of Mrs Thatcher (Front page, October 9) as this puts me off my breakfast and upsets my five-month-old son. Christopher Maria, 3/Q Peabody Avenue, London SW1V 4AU.

Why the police force is no place for any self-respecting female

FROM January to June of this year I worked as a member of the Police Support Staff with my local force. Before I joined, I was offered the following advice regarding sexual harassment: 'From close family friend, an ex-police sergeant: "The proper way to deal with any touching you don't feel comfortable with is politely but firmly to make it known that you don't like it. Never complain - this won't gain you any respect."

and thoughtful man, actually believed that female officers missed the more "rigorous" banter that had taken place in the past. I only met one female officer who was comfortable within the police culture. As you report (Inside story, October 9), most put up with the comments and innuendo, even joining in at times, so as not to appear "soft".

HOW interesting to see the Secretary of State for Wales upholding the Union by brandishing a flag which contains no Welsh element. Annabelle Harle, 4 Ovington Terrace, Cardiff CF5 1GF.

Yes, many incidents may be viewed as trivial, and yes, female officers need to be able to cope with the rigors of the streets. But a culture that constantly demeans women, constantly views them as second-class citizens, should not be tolerated. Name and address supplied.

ON the Tory Party web page, under the "how to join" section (http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/howitz/howitzjohn.htm), there is a quote from Janine Kitchen: "I joined the Conservatives because I believe in their kind of Britain. Also, I enjoy meeting other people, something which is so easy to do in the friendly atmosphere of the Conservative Party."

WHAT the authors of your article on police sexual harassment did not examine (and which to the best of my recollection was never examined four years ago when the DPP was prosecuted and resigned for 'kerb-crawling') was: what effect does the sexist behaviour and attitudes within the police force have on crimes? We have a steadily growing number of reported rapes, and yet decreasing numbers of rapists are brought to trial and found guilty. How effective can the police be when they have the same opinions and socialisation as the criminal? Helen Bunter, Alliance Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11.

Malls mauled

PAUL Barker's hymn of praise to the shopping mall falls into the trap of equating popularity with worth (Living on the edge, October 9). By that token, cocaine dealers would get the Queen's Award for Industry. He does not address the two problems presented to society by the growth of out-of-town shopping. Firstly, every green-field development turns its back on the dereliction it leaves behind and which the rest of us have to pay to clean up.



write atonal music using a tonal scale; one cannot tell our hearing mechanism to abandon that which is inherent. The problem in devising atonal scales, or atonal instruments - most pitched percussion instruments are - if people do want to create atonal music. Incidentally, the first three overtones of instrumental sounds do not produce a chord; the third, fourth and fifth harmonics have the same pitches as a major chord. (Prof) Sir James Beaumont, Queens' College, Cambridge CB3 9ET.

Secondly, these temples of consumption serve to increase the grip of multiple chain stores at the expense of small businesses and entrepreneurs to whom he offers the sop of the car-boot sale. His vision of a world where "panshandlers, alkes and sad people" are banished is neither sustainable nor desirable. If even Mr Gummer can see this, I am surprised that Mr Barker cannot.

That inbuilt sense of rhythm I AGREE with Keith Burstein's views on accessible music (Provocations, October 9). But why normal people find it accessible is more fundamental than he suggests. Most "sounds in nature" vibrate anything but tonally. The harmonics used in orthodox music and the harmonics of instrumental sounds are "tonal" because our hearing mechanism selected them: it reacted to these artefacts in an unusual way. The appeal of tonal music is therefore inbuilt and spontaneous.

Corruption that goes to the roots THE measures advocated by Vernon Bogdanor (Put the House in order, October 9) are necessary to deal with the immediate consequences of the Hamilton/Greer affair, but they amount to treating one of the symptoms rather than the disease itself. The root cause of this sorry episode is our persistence in the undemocratic and outmoded "first-past-the-post" electoral system, with its tendency to produce single-party majority governments.

So Paul Barker toasts out-of-town shopping malls? As long as greater traffic pollution doesn't clog his kid's lungs. As long as his pension contributions aren't invested in suffering town centres (though they probably are). As long as society can afford to discard - rather than revitalise - developed assets and sacrifice more precious open space on a crowded island simply because someone comes up with something more shiny and new. Meanwhile, John Gummer is against them. The fact is that out-of-town development is easier and land is cheaper, especially when banked far enough in advance. Planning-consent "windfalls" are much of what developers' landbanks - and profits - are about. The consumer then "benefits" from the end product while society as a whole must grapple with the real cost. Sounds a bit like cigarette smoking, really. John Worral, Churwell, Elsing Road, Lymington, Norwich NR9 5RR.

require a conspiracy across party boundaries. David Ratford, Wisborough Cottage, Wisborough, West Sussex RH14 6DZ. I READ with interest (Leader, October 8) that Tim Smith might become chair of the Public Accounts Committee. All this despite his confession that he took cash for questions from Al Fayed and asked dozens of questions in the House on behalf of his clients. We must never let him forget that he has used his public office for personal financial gain. New voters in my constituency tell me that the "cash for questions" MPs are one of the main reasons why they have no interest in politics. They see politics as cheap and dirty - due in no small part to Smith's actions. Alastair Hudson, Labour PPC, Beconsfield, Walk Wood Rise, Beconsfield, Bucks.

Injecting sense into the flu plan

EACH year our Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, says that the "wrong" people are taking up influenza immunisation, and that only those at risk from pre-existing illness should apply ('Healthy' urged not to take flu vaccines, October 8).

THE "worried well" who are taking up 25 per cent of the flu vaccines may be worrying about someone other than themselves. What happens when the care of an elderly person or a child at risk becomes ill? Sara Clarke, 45 Church Street, Hayfield, High Peak SK22 2JE.

While the injection does not always prevent influenza, widespread immunisation is the only possible strategy for preventing the serious epidemics which have occurred in the past. Initial higher costs to the NHS might well be counterbalanced by reduced hospital costs for serious complications of influenza, such as pneumonia. (Dr) Pamela Aylett, 4 Nepean Street, London SW15 5DW.

YOU do not mention influenza side-effects such as have laid low several of my friends. And I find it ironic that your report apparently advocates the job for those with diabetes, in view of the consideration reported in Nature that a vaccine is just as likely as a virus to trigger the immune system to attack the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. H Clarke, Funnell Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TX. Before the construction of the pyramids these fields were deserted. Close to 3700 high Ceide Cliffs, assisted by sea winds, sluing rains, held for us in a perfect time capsule, the blanket bog. SARAH POYNTZ

A Country Diary

CEIDE FIELDS, CO MAYO, IRELAND: A day of wind and sun - almost like a day of high summer but with that autumn nip - and we are on the north Mayo coast. No striped limestone barren hills here. What a dramatic change of landscape, from green fields by Ballinaclesh to brown bogland, the blanket bog of north-west Mayo and here. In this one corner, a field of two hectares or five acres. To stand in this field and observe is suddenly to realise that we are seeing the landscape as it was 5,000 years ago because not a single stone has been moved since the bog enveloped all. The last touch, before excavation, was by the finger of a Stone Age human being. We think how 200 generations of farmers could have changed this field through 50 centuries. Elsewhere and throughout our island we have wedge tombs, passage graves as ancient as this patch but the countryside surrounding them has been transformed

irrevocably, beyond thought, perhaps beyond even imagination. We could never have known except for the preserving bog, turf-cutting and excavation. Time can be almost incalculable so that ancient peoples can seem light years away. Yet, as we step down from the bog into the exposed field, and each step down is a step back in time, we are struck by the similarity of this oldest enclosed farmland in Europe to the small stone-walled fields of Ireland's west. Here cattle grazed, here was a pen for calves, here a house and hearth (carbon-dated to 3000 BC). Here was a peaceful people who co-operated, clearing primeval forest, shaping land into fields, heaving a quarter of a million tons of stone to make dividing walls. Before the construction of the pyramids these fields were deserted. Close to 3700 high Ceide Cliffs, assisted by sea winds, sluing rains, held for us in a perfect time capsule, the blanket bog. SARAH POYNTZ





Diary Matthew Norman

A YEAR after Alan Howarth's defection, New Labour celebrates a new recruit. Apply for the FR party, it's the granddaddy of his himself... Max Clifford. On Monday, at the invitation of party organiser Tracey Paul, Max... who claims to hate "Tory hypocrisy"...

At the Independent on Sunday, confusion reigns. On Tuesday, during his resignation speech to staff, outgoing editor Peter Wilby received two messages from Charlie Wilson, Monty Montgomery's fey Swedish henchman, instructing him not to reveal his successor... Rosie Egan remains an odds-on favourite, but we don't think it can possibly be her, since on Monday she agreed that rumours of her appointment were "completely and utterly untrue"...

A CONVERSATION has been overheard in a Westminster office. "You know James Cran quit the Government to spend more time with his constituency?" said one Tory delegate to another. "Well, apparently Steve Norris" - that's Shagger to us - "has been sniffing around it."

THE death of Brendan Woolhead, the man wrongly assumed to be an IRA bomber after the aftermath of February's Aldwych bus explosion, has caused some newspapers grief. Uncharitable types at the Daily Mirror (which paid him £180,000 in libel damages), the Express (£55,000) and the Sun (£102,000) reflect that, had they held out a little longer, the legal adage that a libel dies with its victim would have come to their aid.

IN what could just be an Internet myth, news from a Salt Lake City burns unit races through cyberspace. "In retrospect, lighting the match was my big mistake," said Eric Tomaszewski, who was hurt with boyfriend Kiki Ferri during a session involving Raggot the gerbil and a tube. When Raggot refused to leave Kiki's inwards, Eric popped a lit match inside the tube, hoping to entice him out. The match ignited a pocket of intestinal gas, said a hospital spokesman, "and a flame shot out of the tube, igniting Mr Tomaszewski's hair and severely burning his face." There's more. "It also ignited the gerbil's whiskers. This in turn ignited a pocket of gas further up the intestine, propelling the rodent out like a cannonball." Both men are recovering. There is no word of the gerbil.

A BOOK of Lady Thatcher's greatest speeches has been postponed. According to a HarperCollins press officer, it is pure coincidence that the book will now be published in the same month as the last possible date for the election.



Tories prove that small isn't beautiful

Commentary Hugo Young

THE Tories are becoming small. Small in number, small in mind. The more so, seemingly they talk about the nation, the smaller the nation seems to get. Their horizons are narrowing to the size of an average Union Jack.

They are also getting older. This is a gathering of the grey. The women, especially, are getting on. Menacing cohorts of young men patrol the streets from fringe to fringe, but they do not seem particularly interested in the party of 1996. Their sights are set on the next century. Old and young are united by the kind of despair that is on the cusp of turning nasty.

On Tuesday evening, after the hour at which any newspaper could do it justice, the European Foundation held a rally that was packed to the doors. Bill Cash and Norman Tebbit strode in to the loudest rendition of Land of Hope and Glory I've ever heard. Reaching the platform, they stood to attention, their eyes lifted to some far empyrean as the chords crashed down.

David Heathcote-Amory's meandering exposition of his views on the single currency sat oddly in this company.

The occasion's political ancestry was unmistakable: this was the Tory version of the Tribune Rally at Labour conferences 1976-1983 - the beating heart of the uncorrupted party, the voice of the faith, glancingly connected to the official apparatus, but fundamentally contemptuous of a leadership that has lost its way.

Mr Cash said some pretty startling things that didn't startle his audience in the least. He talked about appeasement and defeatism over Europe, explicitly likening current events with what happened in the 1930s, and making the insinuation that Britain's failure to veto the Treaty of Maastricht was on the way to having the same result as Chamberlain's visit to Munich.

Knowing smirks about the Germans have ceased to be daring. They're common currency in the discourse of both Cash and Tebbit. Tebbit said that Commissioner Brittan was guilty of treason. Cash summoned up mysterious "fifth columnists" whom it would be the solemn duty of the House of Commons to destroy.

Union is nothing but a conspiracy against the British, and that the only way to win the next election is to come out with this loud and clear denunciation in perpetuity any further move towards integration. A moment in history has been reached, we are to understand, when the nation, however small in the scheme of things, must cling, gallantly undefeated, to its heritage.

The tyranny of this presumption extended beyond fringe meetings. It paralysed ministers, depriving them of the capacity for truth. With the exception of John Gummer, no functional minister has dared utter a word of acknowledgement that the EU has positive value.

As one listens to this party debate, and registers the roars of disgust at every development of "Europe", what comes through is the inward-looking timidity to which the Conservative Party is in danger of terminally succumbing. This is ventilated

by occasional blab about the Pacific Rim, for the party wants to have it both ways. It doesn't want to be called the Little England party, and hates the charge of xenophobia. Ingenious Euro-sceptics even have a nice line in casuistry which claims that the Euro-philes are the true Little Englanders. But in truth the party masses, the proto-Torists, are on the very edge of pitching it into an abyss of narrow, futile and menacing nationalism.

In its guts, the Tory party is getting ready for a period in opposition when every division will be triumphantly expressed

tion that Tebbit and Cash had deemed it to be a matter of imperative historic destiny to answer without another day's delay. His was a cunning display of rigour in defence of indecision, delivered with theatrical grimmace. Theirs was a response which appeared to say the Government was, after all, right to be doing exactly what Bill Cash says is a crime against the truth. They lay down and died, before they stood up and cheered, before the aged Burke First Salisbury - the pragmatic position of the Israeli doves, evoking even more antagonism in Israeli public opinion toward their aspirations, and eroding the prospects for a gradual fulfilment of their hopes and statehood.

What has happened to the Cabinet is that it has made a

decision it cannot change. This is a rare event in the saga of John Major's leadership. Every senior minister has come to the microphone to state with unaccustomed clarity, shorn of any weasel-word exception, that Britain will remain a putative candidate-member of economic and monetary union until the EMU negotiation is complete. The prime minister said it again yesterday. At last there is a wall at his back.

One consequence of this is that the speeches, like Rifkin's, can get tougher. The Foreign Secretary made fewer rhetorical concessions yesterday. The same point he spoke in Zurich. The fact that his speech, like the speeches of several others here, had to be made with an eye on a post-election struggle for the party leadership only confirms the point. Like it or not, ministers whose job it is to speak about these things are now absolutely obliged to fight back against the sceptics. And because the Tory Party, though noisy, goes on like being disloyal, the better side of its divided personality is still capable, at least for a day, of being brought out.

But the division is there, and it is deeply entrenched. Mr Major, in the informal Question Time that showed him at his best yesterday, blithely said he believed that the divisions over Europe were now over. This is obvious nonsense. It is just conceivable they can be half-suppressed before the election. But in its guts, the party is getting ready for a period in opposition when every division within its heart will be expressed. Loudest by far is the side that's proud to be British and let the devil take the hindmost. Smallness does not bother it. Only defeatism could suppose otherwise.

Last stop for the travelling people



George Monbiot

BRITAIN'S Romanies are going to be something fishy about the Government's promise to let them establish their own sites, and last month the European Court confirmed it. There should, it ruled, be no special provision for gypsies under Britain's planning laws. They would, as a letter from Robert Jones, the Minister for Planning, reaffirmed in the Guardian yesterday, have to accept the same conditions as everyone else. Planning permission had been the gypsies' last hope.

The Criminal Justice Act removed local authorities' responsibility to provide sites, and the great majority of traditional stopping places - some of which had been used by travellers since the Bronze Age - have been barricaded during the last 20 years, which explains the record numbers of caravans now packed into official sites. Seeking permission to pitch camp on their own land, as Jones advocates, is a poor substitute for wayfaring, but the only remaining means of holding their communities together. Yet 90 per cent of all such applications are turned down. Planning. Britain's gypsies are not coming to see, is not an opportunity but a peril, a means of forced assimilation as effective as Guatemala's integration of the country's Indians, or Saddam Hussein's containment of the Marsh Arabs.

For 23 years, the Romanies of Swan Farm, beside the village of Ash in Kent, have tried to muddle along without permission. When, in 1973, they paid £7,000-£8,000 for each plot, they knew they were taking a risk, but it had to be a better bet, they reasoned, than endless harassment by landowners and the police. Like gypsies almost everywhere, they were welcomed coolly by their neighbours. There were complaints of stolen cars appearing on the site and of children running wild through gardens. Had Swan Farm been an ordinary housing estate, Kent County Council might have concentrated on the handful of people who were causing the problems; but, as the settlement had no planning permission, the council was entitled to clear the whole site. At the end of May, it obtained a compulsory purchase order, and is now offering the Romanies £200-£300 for their plots. Once it acquires the land, it will divide a small part of it into regular parcels, get planning permission, lay

on electricity, then sell leases to the Romanies for £14,000. The residents were astonished, but found that the council has acted within the law. Without permission, the land was worth no more than its agricultural value. With permission, it acquired development-zone prices. If they can't afford to pay all at once, the council says, they can pay in instalments, and if they can't afford that they can, like 90 per cent of Kent's gypsies, go on the housing list.

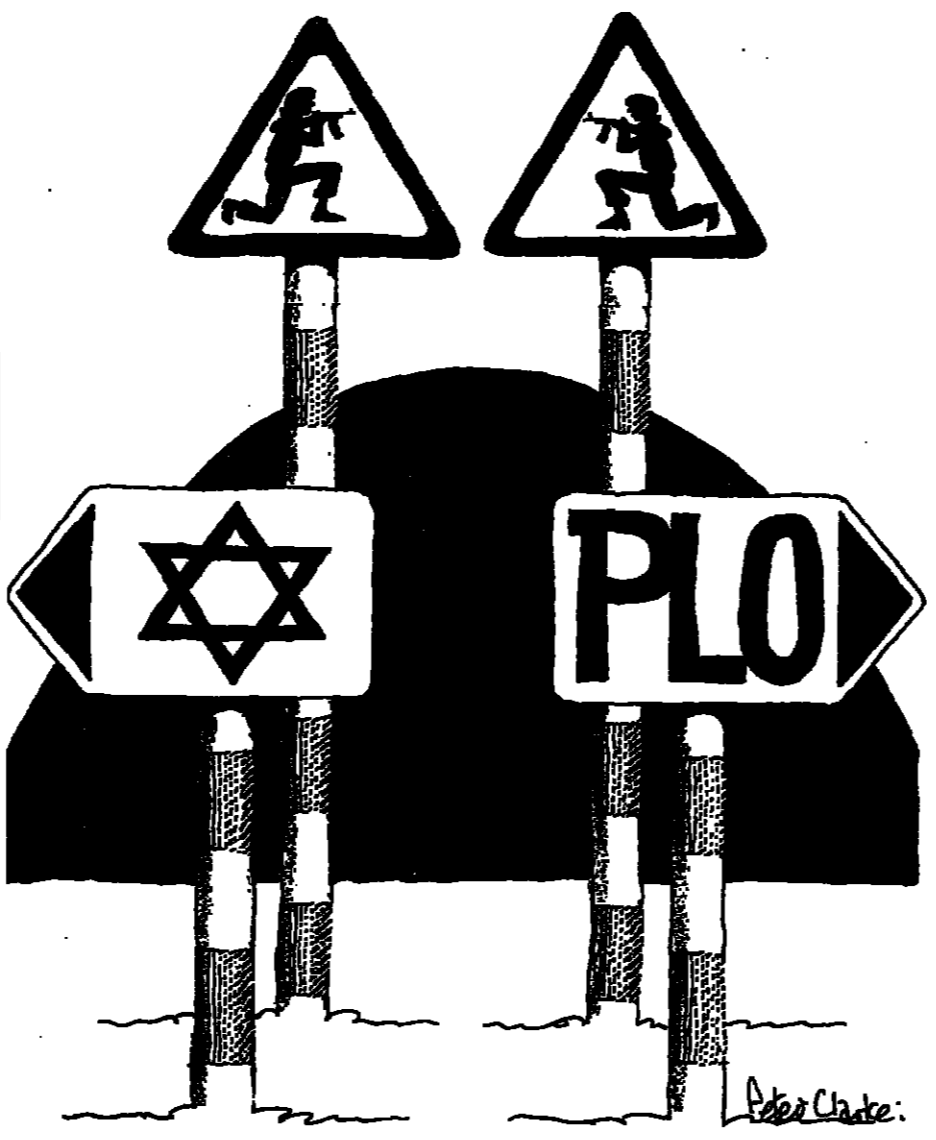
In the meantime, a spiked fence and security lighting have been erected to keep the Romanies in. And, since a fight over the provenance of a car in May, the police have agreed to mount a 24-hour guard at the gates. With their housing situation resolved, the council entices, the gypsy children's schooling will be assured. The Romanies will be "empowered to have the same opportunities as other people".

It all looks neat, ordered and sensible. Admittedly, the security arrangements might appear a touch insensitive, in the light of the gypsies' recent history. It's true, too, that without aid for their horses, and with trading banned on the new site, their economic activities will come to an abrupt end, just as their community life might have some difficulty straddling the picket fences. But, newly empowered, the lucky gypsies will now have opportunities to seek work as zero-hour-contract cleaners, just like the rest of us.

It seems strange that we find it so hard to see what we are doing to these people. We have no such difficulty when urging Brazil to stop taking land from the Indians. China's announcement last week that it will build new schools all over Tibet to eliminate illiteracy (and a few anti-social cultural tendencies) was greeted in Britain not with delight but with repulsion. We were quick to condemn Ceausescu for forcing Romania's gypsies into regular housing.

This land is for peace

It is time to rethink the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a real-estate dispute, argues Amos Oz



THE Israeli hawks criticised the Oslo agreement, being interim agreements, they contain endless potential friction areas. With patches of Palestinian autonomous territories punctuated by fortified Israeli settlements, and with enclaves of militant Israeli settlers surrounded by autonomous Palestinian zones, local clashes are likely to occur, particularly on both sides there are extremists - who would regard an explosion as a tempting option.

The conclusion from this situation, however, is not - as some hawks maintain - to derail the Oslo accords altogether, but just the opposite: we must stick to all existing agreements while moving swiftly towards a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, based on a permanent and reasonable division of the disputed homeland of the Israelis and Palestinians into two sovereign states. Once this principle is established, both parties can negotiate, in a spirit of pragmatic compromise, all the controversial problems: security, settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, water, etc. But we all need to know promptly that, at the end of the day, Israel and Palestine are going to emerge as two neighbouring nations rather than a complicated patchwork of ethnic enclaves.

The most urgent task is to redefine the conflict as a real-estate dispute - who is going to get which part of the land - so as to prevent the zealots

whose land it is can be resolved through a compromise. The conflict over whose faith prevails is insoluble. There are a few places in this ancient land which ought to be accessible to worshippers of all faiths but not controlled by the armed forces of any one of them. Raving nationalism is a potential killer. Religious crusading is another potential killer. A combination

of both is almost certain to prove lethal. At this point in time, most Palestinians, as well as the majority of the Israelis, know that the country is going to be partitioned between the two nations. Even those who regard any partition as unjust, or disastrous, or sacrilegious, know that partition will materialise. Israel must make an urgent simple

choice: either we divide the country between ourselves and the Palestinians or else we go on suppressing them. Opting for the latter, we will have no peace.

The Palestinians for their part have to make their own sharp choice. Either they renounce their armed struggle against Israel altogether and embark on the road towards creating a Palestine next door to Israel, in peace with us, or they opt for a resumption of the armed struggle against Israel, thus maintaining the pragmatic position of the Israeli doves, evoking even more antagonism in Israeli public opinion toward their aspirations, and eroding the prospects for a gradual fulfilment of their hopes and statehood.

Why I refused to call Esther

Television is joining the tabloids in making criminals into celebrities: that, says Myra Hindley, is why she would not talk to Esther Rantzen

I RECEIVED a letter in August from a researcher working on the BBC talk-show, Esther Rantzen, telling me that one of the first programmes for the new series was to be a discussion about whether or not the British are becoming obsessed with crime in the 1990s.

He went on to say that the press seemed continually to feed the public's insatiable appetite for crime with people such as myself becoming as famous as pop stars and politicians, if not more so. He enclosed a list of questions, which read as follows:

1. As someone who is regularly talked about in the media, how do you feel about the way this country views crime? 2. What is your view on criminals becoming celebrities? 3. Are you being increasingly approached by television companies, authors and journalists? Have you co-operated with any? 4. What do you think about Esther doing a programme on this subject? There were also two totally irrelevant and personal questions asking whether, when people write to me, I find it a

welcome "window" to the outside world; and in general, whether I reply. I did not respond to the letter for several reasons, one of which is because the programme itself - broadcast last Friday - was designed to propagate the "celebration" of criminals, and I think the notion of criminals becoming/being made into celebrities is morally wrong. I also believe this question about criminals is as pointless as asking whether there should be a winter in the current climate of tabloid "ethics" and excesses, and with the ozone layer thinning, the likelihood of winter disappearing is far greater than the disappearance of criminal celebrities.

My own view is that more consideration should be given to victims and families of victims in a compassionate and constructive way. I believe it would do much more to help them cope with their grief and loss than demonising criminals, and thus, in the process, making them into celebrities. By regularly contacting and manipulating the families of victims, the tabloids continue to remind them of and exacerbate their suffering. But this sells papers.

I think Esther Rantzen should confine her programmes to exposing injustices perpetrated against the helpless and the abused, of which there are thousands, if not millions.

Advertisement for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). It features a cartoon of a rocket and a person, and text: "In the war against poverty, famine, disease, drought and illiteracy, there's one truly formidable weapon. You. At Voluntary Service Overseas, we currently have 1,500 skilled volunteers from engineers to doctors sharing their knowledge everywhere from Kenya to China. For more information about VSO, please call 0800 788 1328. The battle for a fairer world is one that's really worth fighting." At the bottom: "Some people in the Third World rely on British arms. Others rely on British legs, hands, eyes, brains and ears."

10 OBITUARIES

Richard Barrer

# Fuel the chemist's fame

**R**ICHARD Barrer, who has died aged 88, was the founding father of zeolite chemistry and a prominent figure in membrane science. His research resulted in a huge increase in efficiency in converting crude oil to high octane fuel, and changed the way that detergents were manufactured. The commercial application of his discoveries, which allowed fuel to be manufactured at half its previous cost, may be said to have completely altered the economy of the developed world.

He was born on his parents' sheep farm in New Zealand and obtained his first degree from Canterbury College, now Canterbury University in Christchurch. In 1932 Barrer was awarded a scholarship to Cambridge where he joined Sir Eric Rideal's laboratory. Rideal encouraged his colleagues to produce their own ideas and, as a result of reading McBain's *Sorption of Gases by Solids*, Barrer became highly excited about the sorption of gases in zeolites, especially chabazite, crystals with strictly regular



**The commercial application of his discoveries allowed fuel to be manufactured at half its previous cost**

pore and channel structures of molecular dimensions which were exactly defined by their lattice parameters. And so was born one of the most significant new fields of research in the 20th century.

Gaining his PhD in 1935 Barrer continued to research into zeolite. His initial studies confirmed the molecular sieving properties of these crystalline, microporous solids and in 1938 he published his results in *Sorption of Polar and Non-Polar Gases by Zeolites*. Over the next 15 years, although handicapped by the difficulties of carrying out research during the second world war, he published a further 95 papers characterising these microporous frameworks as absorbents and catalysts. He clearly demonstrated for the first time how these minerals could be synthesised in the laboratory, modified by ion-exchange and could be converted into extremely strong, environmentally friendly, solid acid catalysts with shape-selective properties. Barrer was the first to recognise the usefulness of these materials in many applica-

tions. These studies, undoubtedly, led to the industrial development of these materials in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

His researches have also led to the development of large industrial processes for the separation of hydrocarbons, oxygen, nitrogen and other gas and liquid mixtures. From studies on the ion-exchange thermodynamics of sodium and calcium ions in zeolite A, some one million tons of this zeolite are now used annually as builders in detergents. It has been used as a more environmen-

friendly replacement for phosphates in detergents since the 1970s.

With his discovery that alkylammonium compounds could be used as "templates" in the synthesis of zeolites, a major new synthesis tool well beyond the field of zeolites was developed.

One of the many new materials and processes developed as a result of Barrer's work was the zeolite ZSM-5. It is used as the catalyst in a power plant built in New Zealand for the conversion of natural gas to petroleum. This plant now provides some 30

per cent of the fuel needs of the country dear to Barrer's heart.

After Clare College Cambridge, Bradford Technical College, Bedford College, London and five years as the chair of chemistry at the University of Aberdeen (1949-1954), Barrer was appointed professor of physical chemistry at Imperial College, London where he remained until his retirement. He was an excellent teacher, with an intense and infectious interest in the scientific problem at hand. As head of the chemistry department, he enjoyed turning his back on all his administrative problems and immersing himself in discussions during his daily visits to every member of his large research school. He was regularly consulted by many large industrial corporations right up to his death and was still publishing papers of considerable mathematical complexity in 1996.

Outside the laboratory Barrer showed great prowess at athletics and tennis. He won the Oxford-Cambridge cross-country championship for 1934 and the British Universi-

ties Athletic Union cross-country championship for 1935. He was a serious contender for selection for the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. His tennis was still good enough, as late as 1990, to withstand all challenges in partnership with Bob Van Worstrand, who was six years his junior at the triennial British Zeolite Association meetings.

Richard Maling Barrer was a most distinguished scientist. Although a shy person he had complete confidence in his own abilities. During his life he published over 400 papers, three monographs and took out 21 patents. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize this year. As this prize is not presented posthumously, it shall never know how close he came to achieving the award he coveted and many distinguished colleagues felt he deserved. He leaves Helen, his wife of 57 years, and four children.

**Lowell Neece**  
Richard Maling Barrer, chemist, born June 18, 1910; died September 12, 1996

Alan Downes

# Searing image of war

**P**ERHAPS one of the most searing remembrances of the Vietnam war was the image of nine-year-old Kim Phuc running naked towards the camera, her mangled skin melting from her body. That camera was held by Alan Downes, who has died aged 58.

In that moment Downes was confronted by the ultimate dilemma for any journalist — stop filming and try to save her, or film on and let the image infuse the rest of us. In Kim's case he did both — literally ordering a passing American medical unit into emergency action, which probably saved her life. After that he was to serve time and again as the unsung agent of the image that was to fix our own understanding and memory of great world events.



Remembrance of Vietnam... Alan Downes's unforgettable shot of nine-year-old Kim Phuc fleeing a napalm attack

Alan's career spanned the entire life of Independent Television News. He joined as a messenger boy from school in 1955, and was still doing the odd freelance shift in 1996. As one of the last intake for National Service the army decided that, as he worked for a television company, he should be trained as a stills photographer. It was his sense of contrast, shape and composition that rendered him such a special cameraman when he returned to ITN two years later.

From then on he was thrown into virtually every front and backside war in the world. From Vietnam to Cyprus, from Luanda to Belfast, and from Chile to Afghanistan. Alan was there, permanently professional, occasionally grumpy, but eternally interested, involved and engaged in the event in hand.

We filmed elephant seals in Antarctica together, death squad victims in El Salvador, the burial of hunger strikers in Belfast. We walked for six weeks across war-torn

Eritrea, lived for a month with the guerrillas in El Salvador, and in those days, often under fire, we would live together with our soundman as intensely as with our own partners.

In those hours, occasionally in captivity, often under fire, Alan had always had the capacity to make a calm and rational assessment of the danger. He never took risks that were always right there when it counted.

Alan was a correct man, a warm and sensitive man,

even a short-tempered man — but whatever the vapours, his camera work was utterly dependable and of the highest order. He taught me and many others just about everything we ever knew of the craft of television and tutored me too in survival under fire. He was also a cultured man whose love of Persian carpets even the panic selling by frightened Iranian salesmen amidst Khomeini's return failed to set.

He won many awards for his camerawork — the most

celebrated with reporter Mike Nicholson. On July 20 1974, they were in northern Cyprus looking for the Turkish invasion force. Trundling along the wrong road, they ran out of petrol. Cursing and swearing, Nicholson got out of the car only to see to his left a vast array of parachutes falling from the sky. The film sound track has Mike's voice on it shouting "can you get it Alan?" But, as ever, Alan had his camera already rolling on what was to prove an historic world exclusive.

For Saskia and Nick, his grown children, and Sheila his wife, there is a desperate irony, that it was not the crossfire, the landmines, or the repressive guardsmen they had feared would kill him, but brain cancer, against which he so resiliently fought, that finally stilled his camera.

**Jon Snow**  
Alan Charles Downes, cameraman, born September 6, 1938; died October 9, 1996

Charles Wegg-Prosser

# A compulsion for politics

**T**HE LAST political act of Charles Wegg-Prosser, who has died aged 86, was to vote yes to Labour's proposed new manifesto. Yet when he arrived in Paddington as a young solicitor in 1937 it was as a lieutenant of Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists.

After Mosley's New Party turned into the BUF in 1939

many of its original supporters had abandoned it. Not so Wegg-Prosser, more rural than urbane cosmopolitan, and a big, assertive, restless man, who continued to be excited by Mosley's authority, contributed to the Mosleyite theoretical journal and ran for the BUF in London local elections.

Then he witnessed the BUF's repellent, violent anti-

semitism. He openly denounced his black-shirted comrades and their psychopathic futurist and applied to join the Labour Party. Shrewdly, Herbert Morrison, then London's Labour Party leader, granted him a year's probation, but conversion was eventually completed.

Wegg-Prosser's business prospered as well. He defended

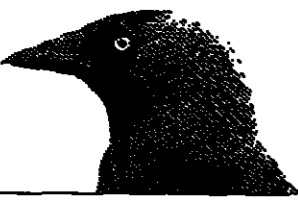
Paddington's poor families and the criminal classes and also, with his wife Betty, involved himself in local affairs. He fought Paddington South successfully in the 1945, 1950, 1951 and 1956 general elections, and was elected to Paddington borough council.

In the 1950s Wegg-Prosser was involved in the battle against the notorious slum landlord Peter Rachman. He proved indispensable too in drafting possible housing legislation and his Praed Street offices became an early bastion of legal aid. A stern but not intolerant Gaiskellite, Charles Wegg-Prosser was the first

Labour activist to be taken on to that bastion of Conservatism, the Law Society's ruling body.

His day-to-day experience in the courts and the community marked him out. A man of arcaic discretion, he did once show me a statement from a prostitute. This good woman had just chided an ancient High Court judge, dressed him, given him a cup of strong tea and seen him off the premises as a police raid began. "Honest to God, Mr Wegg-Prosser," she had told him, "I was more worried for the judge than myself. He could have had a heart attack." Charles looked at me

Jackdaw



Euro scrapping

**T**HE OTHER day in Brussels the British minister for agriculture was at it again, scrapping and bowing to the European commissioners for agriculture. Rather pathetic actually. He attempted to get them to reverse an agreement regarding the culling of potentially BSE-infected cattle. The agreement was reached by his own prime minister in Florence only months ago and claimed as a victory for Britain! The agricultural minister was rightly and politely shown the door! This kind of arrogance raises questions whether Britain is ready for European integra-

tion. The elitist group running the country is what needs to be culled! I don't have a feel for how the British would vote in a referendum on membership of the European Union but am absolutely certain there is not one single country in the European Union who would stand in the way of Britain leaving.

The other EU members have had their noses up to the eyeballs! Of course this will never happen because Britain has no plausible future outside the European Union. "The move to a single European currency was formalised by the Treaty of European Union. Britain negotiated an opt out clause on EMU and is not obliged to join. The constant whining and accusations that its European partners have ulterior motives is outrageous.

The suggestion that a move to a common currency is part of a German conspiracy to dominate Europe is ludicrous and indeed offensive in the year 1996. Britain with more admirals than ships in its navy is a first rate power, the days of glory and Rule Britannia are

over. For themselves and everyone else, the sooner they realise the better.

*From British Beef, It's What for Dinner! in the Entertainment on English-language Spanish paper. Thanks, Walter Plummer.*

**History lines**  
ABRAHAM Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846. John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both their wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on Friday. Both were shot in the head. Both were shot in the presence of their wives.

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy. Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both successors were named Johnson. Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Booth ran from the theatre and was captured in a warehouse. Oswald ran from the warehouse and was captured in a theatre.

To cap it all off, Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

*Mystery of a statistical coincidence? www.birdsalliesdesigns.com/MIKE/Lincoln-Kennedy.html*

**Girl Crazy**  
PRODUCERS of the ABC sitcom *Ellen* are discussing plans to have the main character disclose that she's a lesbian.

DEAR ABC: I have read that you are thinking of turning the television character Ellen into a homosexual and am wondering if you plan to make her a slutty lesbian or the type who stays at home and gardens. If you move in favour of the slut, allow me to suggest my former wife as a role model. Is that the right word? I mean that if Ellen wants to be a slutty lesbian you can base her character on my former wife — all she does is tell lies and slut around. On our wedding night, I shaved off all the hair on my body, because she said it made her nervous. Then, when I was bleeding from razor nicks, guess who chose to sleep on the sofa? Now she's living the slutty high life and I have nothing. If I provide you with my ex-wife's address, will you pay me for it? Please have your lawyers contact me as soon as possible. If my mother answers, ask to speak to Timothy. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE WITHOUT MY MOTHER, as I don't want her knowing my business.

Timothy Dykemam, Cleveland, Ohio.

DEAR ABC: Kudos for allowing *Ellen* to reflect the rich diversity of the real America, a place where differences are celebrated and frank discussions of sexuality are as common as evening prayer. Don't be fooled or intimidated by the right wing's proposed boycotts. For every rabid fundamentalist, there are 10 free-

Susan Gautier-Smith

# Friendship and laughter

**S**USAN Gautier-Smith, who has died aged 33 of complications brought on by heart failure, was a television producer and casting director associated with many of the comedy programmes of the decade. She was also, as her friend and colleague David Baddiel once put it, a social centre, a person whose gift for friendship made her the pith of a creative community.

Susan — or Suz, as she was universally known — Gautier-Smith was the daughter of one of England's foremost neurologists. After Wimbledon's Lycée Français, she won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, where she read English and became involved in the dramatic world, from Footlights pantomime to musicals.

She began her professional career with Yorkshire Television, as a researcher on *Horray for Today*, Lucinda Lambton's gung-ho guide to the architecture of Britain. The series' title said something about Suz's exuberant disposition.

Having worked on a number of highly-regarded programmes — which included producing a memorable documentary about the American scientist Clifford Stoll — Suz studied film at New York University. Back from America, she turned her attention to the rising generation of humorists and comic performers like Armando Iannucci, David Baddiel, Steve Coogan, and Chris Morris. It was as producer or casting director on shows like *The Day Today*, *Saturday Night Armistice*, *The Alan Partridge Show*, and *Knowing Me, Knowing You* that Suz contributed to our popular culture.

Suz was enthusiastic about television because she enjoyed enabling writers and performers to do their stuff. Generosity of spirit was her distinctive quality, that, and a curiosity about the world, expressed in her travels and enthusiasm for people, trends and ideas.

She cross-examined new acquaintances about themselves which invariably led to the common ground of friendship. Thus, on the bus from the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Suz befriended the tiny old lady and concentration camp survivor seated next to her and discovered that they had mutual friends in Wimbledon.

Suz was never happier than when at the family home in Treberick, Cornwall, with her family and friends and, in particular, with her husband Matthew Batstone, whom she married last year. There she would match-make for straight and gay friends alike, mend broken hearts and pour out the wine, her steady blue gaze gradually acquiring a mischievous gleam.

In early 1996 Suz went with Matthew to Fontainebleau, where he was to study for a masters degree and an MBA. There she became pregnant with her son Patrick. The pregnancy had a beneficial effect on the chronic rheumatoid arthritis, which she had

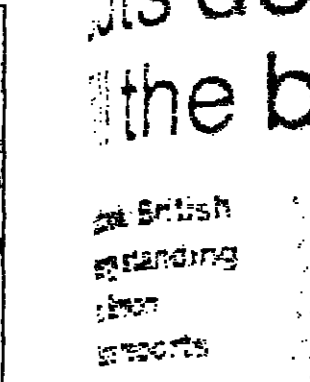
uncomplainingly borne for many years, but it brought to the surface a heart defect. During a summer trip to South Africa she suffered a heart failure and while in hospital in England, her son Patrick died unborn. On Tuesday after facing her illness with clear-eyed courage, Suz died too.

Susan Gautier-Smith was much loved and for her many friends London life will no longer be the same. She is mourned by Matthew, by her parents Peter and Nesta, and by her sister Annie.

**Joseph O'Neill**

David Baddiel writes: Most people who work in TV are in there for the long haul, in the long slog up the career ladder to whichever floor the offices are marked "executive". Suz was not. She just liked being around writers and performers and, as she was never anything but lovable, they liked being around her.

I met her on my first day at Cambridge, and being myself somewhat ethnic and perturbed, was initially uncertain about this robust blonde with her double-barrelled name and her non-non-



Gautier-Smith... TV career

sense Englishness. I say "initially" because that uncertainty lasted only about 10 minutes, after which I realised that Suz was a great advertisement for a post background — she may have been a "socialite", but only in the sense that she was incredibly, intensely sociable.

Most people who have a very wide circle of friends one suspects perhaps of having only surface friendships, but Suz was so open and so genuinely curious about everyone she met and easily befriended that it simply was the truth — and I know this is often said in obituaries, but it was, as I say, the truth — that everyone loved her.

I worked with her twice: once on the Footlights pantomime, and once again on an ill-fated Channel 4 show called *Stab in the Dark*. In all honesty, she wasn't a great producer — she was too interested in having fun to work that hard — but she was a great friend. It is strange, really, that Suz died of a heart condition, as I would have thought of her as someone whose heart was too big for that.

Susan Gautier-Smith, television producer, born September 10 1963; died October 6 1996

## Birthdays

- Tony Adams, footballer, 30;
- Jane Bloomfield, chair, CND, 43; Katherine Davis, general secretary-elect, Royal College of Midwives, 50;
- Peter Davis, director-general, Ofcot, 55; Ted Edgar, show jumper, 61; Fiona Fullerton, actress, 40; Clare Hollingworth, journalist, 85;
- Daniel Massey, actor, 83;
- Nicholas Parsons, quizmaster, 88; Harold Pinter, playwright, 68; Chris Tarrant, broadcaster, 50; Midge Ure, rock singer, 43; Willard White, baritone, 50.

## Death Notices

**BRACE,** Helen Miriam Stuart at Colchester on Thursday the 3rd of October 1996. Our beloved mother and loving wife. Preparing for a long and interesting life will be at St. Peter's Church, Colchester at 1330m on Oct. 11th. Family flowers only. Donations to Helen House Hospice, Colchester.

**CROWELL,** Harry Elias of Crown Wood, Colchester died peacefully on October 9, 1996. Loved and cherished by his family. Burial at Colchester Crematorium. Telephone 0171 713 4527; Fax 0171 713 4125.

lovely Miss DeGeneres. Stick with the hot stuff and you've got yourself a loyal viewer. Dimitris Sappho, New York City.

David Sedaris considering the letters ABC might receive in the New Yorker.

**Very Sad**

- \* You wore a bias ribbon to protest the Communications Decency Act.
- \* You kiss your girlfriend's home page.
- \* Your eyeglasses have a web site burned in on them.
- \* You find yourself brainstorming for new subjects to search.
- \* You refuse to go to a vacation spot with no electricity or phone lines.
- \* You finally do take that vacation, but only after buying a cellular modem and a laptop.
- \* You spend half of a plane trip with your laptop on your lap, and your child in the overhead compartment.
- \* You refer to going to the bathroom as "downloading."
- \* Your wife drapes a blonde wig over your monitor to

remind you of what she looks like.

- \* You start introducing yourself as "Jim at I-I-Net dot net dot au."
- \* All of your friends have an @ in their names.
- \* Your dog has its own home page.
- \* You've already visited all the links at Yahoo and you're halfway through Lycos.
- \* You can't call your mother.
- \* "the best" has a modem.
- \* You check your mail. It says "no new messages." So you check it again.
- \* Your wife's new rule: "The computer cannot come to bed."
- \* You are so familiar with the WWW that you find the search engines useless.
- \* Symptoms of Internet addiction. Discussed in the *Art, Best of Internet* newsgroup by Michael Jovic.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@iguardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

## Emily Schiffer

09/25/2005

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Customers in South-west experiment complain of threatening letters though they don't owe a penny

## Gas competition in chaos

Geoffrey Gibbs

**C**ONSUMER watchdogs have launched an emergency investigation into a flood of complaints from gas customers in the South-west, amid signs that the Government's experiment with competition is descending into chaos.

Thousands who switched to new suppliers when the domestic gas market in the region was opened up to competition earlier this year. Consumer groups say they are deeply concerned about the situation which they blame on the inadequacies of British Gas's computer systems.

The letters — threatening court action and warning of enforcement procedures — are said to have frightened hundreds of customers who switched from British Gas when homes in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset became the test-bed for gas market regulation in April.

It is understood that about 450 complaints have been received by the London and Plymouth offices of the Gas Consumers Council. Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, told the Guardian last night: "We think there is a serious problem with British Gas systems over this and we are in urgent discussions with Ofgas. The systems are not able to cope with customer transfer and that has implications for public confidence in the competitive market."

Next Monday she is expected to widen the Monopolies and Mergers inquiry into BG's pipeline and exploration business, TransCo, to include not only disputed price controls but also alleged cross-subsidies. Among those threatened with court action was Frank Knott, a 66-year-old retired fireman from Torquay, who changed to Swebgas on the day the new competitive market opened.

He settled his bill on April 23 before going on holiday and according to his new supplier — who took over on April 29 — may in fact be owed money by British Gas because of previous over-estimates on his account. Earlier this week he and his wife received a letter from the Stockport-based firm Moorcroft Debt Recovery which said it had been instructed by British Gas to collect an overdue debt of £23.58. The letter warned it was essential to settle the debt without delay. Failure to contact the company might result in a summons being issued without further notice. "I am hopping mad," Mr Knott said last night. "If an elderly person had received this letter it would have frightened her to death. She would have wondered what the devil was going on."

### Notebook

## Eddie walks the euro tightrope



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT WOULD have been difficult for the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, to be further away from the ferment of Blackpool and Bournemouth. Yet as first Labour and now the Tories work themselves into a lather about the single currency, it is Mr George, currently marching across the Himalayas, whose name is on everyone's lips. Last week Mr George had reportedly delivered a private message to the Labour leader, Tony Blair, advising him that delay would be the best policy.

Then in Bournemouth the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, claimed the Bank's support for the view that it would be wrong to rule out participation in monetary union now, as the Eurosceptics are demanding. The Bank is in a curious position. On paper at least it is in its interests to support EMU, since a pre-condition of adopting the euro would be an independent central bank for the United Kingdom — a long cherished position. Moreover, as the *de facto* leader of the City, Mr George has more knowledge and concern about technical issues — such as the partial exclusion of Britain from the new EMU clearing system. Target — than almost anyone else. It is to his credit therefore that he refuses to pander to Euro-enthusiasm. His position is that EMU has to be an economic not a political exercise and it is economic convergence which should determine membership. Neither Mr Blair nor the Tories should have much difficulty with that. The only problem is that Mr George's timeframe is rather different from Mr Major's and others who act as if the decision on the first wave could wait until 1999. The Bank's view is that an assessment will have to be made on whether economies, including Britain's, are sufficiently converged by late 1997. Beyond that date, Britain will miss the first wave. Such a decision would be extremely daunting for a new prime minister a few months into office. Despite the huge roar from the Eurosceptics, under the position engineered by John Major, Kenneth Clarke and Rifkind, the Tories — if convergence has taken place — might find it harder to resist the premier's division.

## Draconian cuts don't fill the bill

Outlook/ British Energy standing still. Simon Beavis reports

**S**HAREHOLDERS in British Energy yesterday saw their shares stay above July's flotation price for the second day as the company confirmed plans to cut 23 per cent of its staff or 1,400 jobs in a £100 million programme. The shares rose on the news by 0.5p to 108p, giving them a 5p margin above the privatisation issue price. However, the shares gave up their gains in late trading and closed at 107.5p.

wholesale electricity price of the day. That price is set by other types of stations which run in the middle of the merit order, or when demand peaks. While pool prices are high and reactors are running well, cash pours in. The trouble is that the reactors have had a troubled operating record, and pool prices are expected to tumble dramatically in the next three years as competition in the generation market builds up.

**D**ESPITE yesterday's far-reaching restructuring announcement, the nuclear power generator remained fixed in a familiar place. It is called Controversy And Uncertainty. The job-cutting plans met with widespread condemnation from unions and opposition parties on both sides of the border, and nuclear industry inspectors warned they could block the cuts if safety were compromised. The company claimed that the cuts, which will save £50 million a year and will be achieved over a three-year period, had been clearly flagged ahead of July's controversial self-off.

But only British Energy can keep its stations ticking over smoothly. But will the massive staff reductions cut technical expertise at the stations and make unplanned outages both more frequent and more long-lasting? Shareholders know that the company is "highly geared operationally". They were warned in the prospectus the dividend could be cut if stations underperformed, or pool prices fell by more than 5 per cent, or if cost savings proved elusive. Even though they know the company is prepared to dig into reserves to pay dividends until the turn of the century (there will be no profits before then), they are unlikely to be cheered by yesterday's announcement.

That claim is disputed by unions and some City analysts, who insist there was never any hint that cuts would be so draconian. In truth, the City had expected the company to make cost savings through some staff cuts. Indeed, it was seen as one of the only ways out of British Energy's squeeze. And the cost-savings outlined by chief executive Robert Hawley are bigger than many watchers had anticipated. Some 1,200 jobs will go at Nuclear Electric, the company's subsidiary in England and Wales, of which half will be headquarter staff and half workers on site at reactors (the equivalent of about 125 jobs at the five advanced gas-cooled reactors and 52 at Sizewell B). Then, 260 will go at Scottish Nuclear, with 85 jobs at the Braid Burn head-quarters in East Kilbride and 175 at the two reactors north of the border. Yet the City remains unimpressed: Nuclear power stations make money by running at as high an output as possible and collecting the

After that, British Energy must look to what it can do to increase cost savings. In the short term, there will be other, more minor savings. Then the options get more tricky. One obvious move — clearly in the back of some directors' minds — is to sort out the chaotic corporate structure and bring all reactors under one operational command rather than under two subsidiaries. The current structure is entirely politically motivated — designed to reassure Scotland that there has not been an English takeover — such a move would be highly sensitive — and would land British Energy back in the thick of controversy and uncertainty.



Great strides... a worker operates a winch to haul up a huge pair of American Lee jeans in front of a Beijing shopping centre. The jeans, said to be the world's largest, are as tall as 10-storey building

## Reuters unfazed by Clarke attack

Ian King

**R**EUTERS yesterday shrugged off Kenneth Clarke's surprise rule changes on share buybacks and insisted that it still hopes to return part of its £560 million cash pile to shareholders. The media group, which yesterday shelved plans to return cash to shareholders through a buyback and special dividend, said it was hopeful of finding a way around the new rule.

On Tuesday, in a move widely believed to be timed to stop the Reuters agency winning approval for its £261 million buyback deal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer scrapped tax benefits linked to some share buyback and special dividend schemes. But yesterday Reuters chief executive Peter Job said the company still hoped to make a payout to its shareholders, and would wait until after the Finance Bill before deciding what steps to take next. He added: "It is necessary for some way to be found in which cash can be given out to shareholders without excessive problems, and no doubt this will happen in due course."

It is thought Reuters may now look at more conventional ways of returning cash to shareholders, such as in the form of an ordinary special dividend, with the emphasis being to return the cash in a way that would not make it liable to tax. Mr Job went on: "The company doesn't need the cash, and should be able to return it to shareholders in a tax-neutral way. If we have to keep it, then there's pressure to pay regular dividends or to acquire other companies, which may not be our actual commercial priority."

According to City analysts, Reuters is accumulating cash at the rate of £300 million but, aside from a few small acquisitions in the new media sector earlier this year, is not under pressure to make any substantial acquisitions. Meanwhile, Reuters shareholders yesterday looked at the company's plans to adjourn its resolutions returning cash to shareholders indefinitely, giving Mr Job and his colleagues time to thrash out an alternative strategy. Reuters shares closed up 9 1/2p at 78 1/2p on the news. Elsewhere, Alders told shareholders that, as intended, it would be proposing payment of a special dividend of 46p — worth a total of £50 million — at its extraordinary meeting today, but without a previously planned share consolidation.

### Taxing needs

**T**HE IPS/Goldman Sachs green budget (*details page 32*) leaves no doubt that cutting taxes in November's budget would be dangerous, given Britain's prospective levels of borrowing. It suggests that Mr Clarke will

## Surprise bidder for Queens Moat hotels

Dominic Walsh

**A**FLEDGLING Scottish hotel company has emerged as a surprise front-runner to buy the 25 hotels — including the England team's HQ during Euro 96 — put up for sale by Queens Moat Houses in April, with a price tag of more than £100 million. Glasgow-based Adams Hotels, with just two hotels, is believed to have offered as much as £110 million for the package, with funding from the Royal Bank of Scotland. Queens Moat, which is selling the hotels to reduce its £1 billion debt mountain, declined to comment on the deal. However, Adams Hotels director, Michael Thompson, said: "We are discussing it."

The portfolio up for sale comprises 19 provincial hotels branded under the County Hotels banner and a further six under the Moat House brand; they include the Burnham Beeches Hotel in Buckinghamshire, which was home to the England football team during the Euro 96 championships. Another hotelier to have looked at the package expressed surprise at the price being mooted. "Anything over £100 million would represent an exceptional price for Queens Moat. I'd have given them no more than £75 to £80 million," he said. It is understood that at least one other bidder is still interested, though the Adams offer is thought to be the highest. The management buyout mooted in April is not thought to have materialised.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.5175	France 7.8900	Italy 2.235	Singapore 2.15
Austria 0.22	Germany 2.3180	Malta 0.5485	South Africa 6.8
Belgium 47.66	Greece 368.75	Netherlands 2.6040	Spain 194.85
Canada 2.0630	Hong Kong 11.78	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.1175
Cyprus 0.7045	India 55.71	Norway 9.90	Switzerland 1.2
Denmark 8.9180	Ireland 0.8455	Portugal 235.50	Turkey 140.017
Finland 7.0620	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.83	USA 1.5275

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

## Murdoch to sue in clash of the cable news titans

Mark Tran in New York

**R**UPERT Murdoch's News Corporation yesterday said it was suing Time Warner for allegedly reneging on an agreement to carry the new Fox News Channel on its US cable systems. The escalation in the clash of two media titans mixes elements of farce and seriousness. News Corp said it will seek a permanent injunction against Time Warner's acquisition of Turner Broadcasting, owner of Cable News Network, which is expected to receive shareholders' approval today. The suit will allege "anti-trust violations, in-

cluding an anti-trust conspiracy, between Time Warner and Turner to block the Fox News Channel". But the lawsuit has little chance of success because the deal has won Federal Trade Commission approval. "The lawsuit is utter foolishness," said Richard Parsons, president of Time Warner. The case hinges on whether Time Warner committed itself to carry Fox News Channel, which this week joined the crowded all-news TV business. News Corp believes Gerald Levin, chairman of Time Warner, made a personal commitment to Mr Murdoch to carry Fox News. Time Warner disagrees.

## Revenue taxed over 'unhelpful insensitivity'

Watchdog attacks overbearing staff and predicts big rise in complaints when self-assessment is introduced

Ian Wylie

**S**TAFF at the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise were yesterday accused of "incompetence, insensitivity and indifference" by a Government watchdog who warns of a steep rise in complaints when the new system of self-assessment for tax is introduced. In her annual report, the adjudicator, Elizabeth Filkin, who also handles

complaints about the Contributions Agency, said she had seen too many examples of unhelpfulness, overbearing behaviour and poor communication among staff at the three departments. During 1995/96, Ms Filkin received 3,267 complaints — an increase of 27 per cent on the previous year, mainly because of the adjudicator's new responsibilities for looking at complaints about Customs & Excise and the Contribu-

tions Agency. In 50 per cent of complaints, Ms Filkin found either wholly or partly in favour of the complainant. The largest single compensation payment was £28,490, made by the Inland Revenue following a complaint that it had conducted the investigation of a small business improperly. The report praises the Inland Revenue for improving the way it handles complaints and deals with taxpayers, but the adjudicator said she had seen some "very poor work" by the Revenue where taxpayers had faced huge bills, been caused unnecessary work and suffered frustration and fear.

She singled out the Valuation Office Agency for censure, saying she had seen little improvement in the quality of its complaints handling over the last year. A spokesman later conceded that the adjudicator's office was gearing up for a surge of complaints about self-assessment by reviewing staffing requirements and enrolling employees on self-assessment training courses. "Anything that is new and affects nine million people is bound to be a source of error and complaints," he said. "We would prefer to anticipate the response now, rather than react to it later."

Emily Sheffield

# BT's milch-cow soured by partner deserting to C&W

Nicholas Barnister  
Technology Editor

**B**RITISH Telecom suffered a substantial blow to its European expansion ambitions yesterday when one of its two German partners switched sides to join up with rival Cable & Wireless.

Utilities group RWE said it had decided not to participate in the telecom venture set up by BT and Viag, another utilities group, after a disagreement on policy.

It revealed that it is now concluding negotiations with C&W and Veba, yet another utility, on "taking a new direction to enter the German telecommunications market".

The two sides fell out over how, if they won the licence, they would run Germany's fourth mobile phone network. Licence applications must be made within the next week.

In February RWE signed a letter of intent to join Viag Interkom - the telecom company set up by Viag and BT. But the talks to finalise the deal recently turned sour.

RWE, with a 4,000km fibre-optic network in northern Germany, would have doubled the size of Viag Interkom's backbone network.

Viag Interkom is now left with a network covering just 40 per cent of the population, largely in southern Germany.

A BT spokesman said the

group was talking to another party to replace RWE.

He said BT and Viag wanted to create an integrated business offering land-line and mobile services on a single network, whereas RWE was pushing for the more costly option of a stand-alone mobile business.

RWE's move into the C&W camp is all the more galling for BT as it failed to bring off a £33 billion merger with C&W earlier this year.

C&W and Veba have already set up Vebacom to spearhead their assault on the German telecom market, which is due to be opened to full competition by 1998.

Vebacom and RWE are planning to keep the network and services sides of the business apart. RWE, which is planning to invest about DM2.5 billion, will end up with 51 per cent of the network company. Vebacom will control the services side, which will include any mobile phone operations. A separate management company owned by the three parent groups will co-ordinate strategy and spending.

Under the new structure, no new cash will be needed from C&W for the next four or five years.

Deutsche Telekom, the state-owned telecom monopoly, is due to be privatised next month, when a 20 per cent stake in the company is to be sold to investors for

about £6.3 billion. It claimed yesterday to have found interest among 2.5 million potential investors.

BT and Viag had always wanted to bring in a third partner to spread the cost of setting up a business capable of competing with Deutsche Telekom. They had originally estimated that £300 million would have to be invested, but the total investment could rise to £1.6 billion if they win the licence for the £2 mobile network.

City analysts said that a replacement for RWE would be hard to find. But Richard Jones, telecom specialist at Yamachi, suggested that industrial groups Daimler-Benz and Thyssen may be possible partners. Thyssen failed to win the right to use the fibre-optic network alongside Germany's motorways.

"As far as BT is concerned, RWE was a fairly recent addition and it is far better that they fall out now, rather than in 1998, when things hot up," he said.

Recent clarification of the regulatory regime will make it easier for Viag Interkom to negotiate agreements to use other operators' networks.

RWE has valuable infrastructure in the German telecoms market and BT is continuing talks with the company to gain access to it, said a BT spokesman. "We are confident some agreement can be reached," he added.

## Cable firm sets OfTel on to BT's BSKyB deal

Nicholas Barnister

**O**FTEL, the telecom watchdog, is investigating an alliance struck between British Telecom and satellite broadcaster BSKyB.

A cable company, believed to be General Cable, has complained to OfTel about the deal, announced by BT at the end of last month.

Under the agreement, members of BT's Friends & Family discount scheme who sign up with BSKyB get a special offer worth £50, which includes five-and-a-half hours of free local BT calls every weekend for a year.

A BT spokesman said that the BSKyB deal was no different to a range of other affinity deals it has done with companies or brands, such as British Airways, Sainsbury, Paldog foods and Flora margarine.

He said the £39.99 of free local calls was paid to BT by BSKyB. "BT is not favouring one group of customers over another," he said.

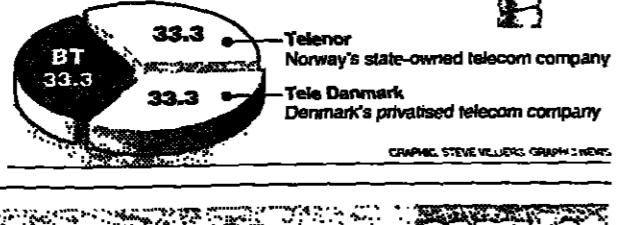
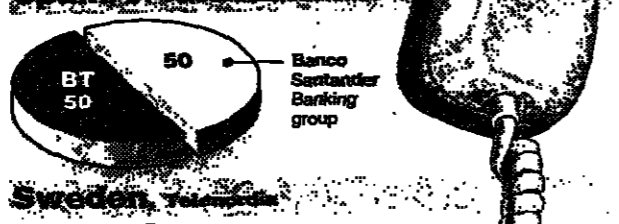
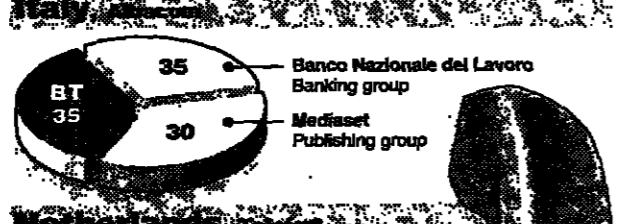
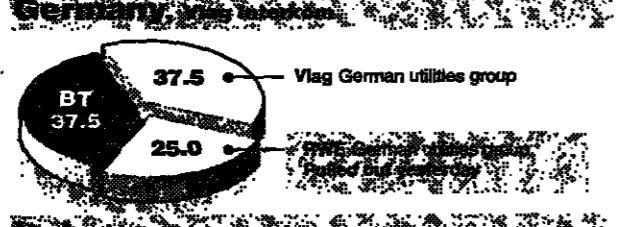
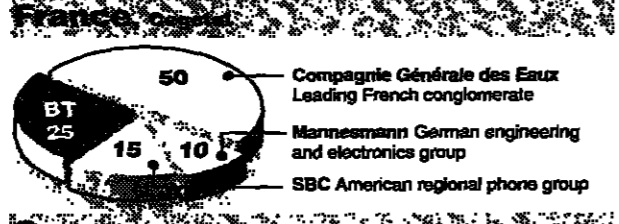
An OfTel spokeswoman said that it had received a complaint from a cable company which it was obliged to investigate under the present regulations.

The watchdog had asked BT for details of the scheme, and expected to receive them within the next few days. It would then see whether the telecoms company was in breach of any of its licence conditions.

However, OfTel will not be checking to see whether the issue comes within the new catch-all fair trading clause in BT's licence, since the clause does not come into effect until January.

## BT's connections

Percentage ownership of European phone companies



## Former BET director backs John Clark's £6m compensation claim



John Clark (above), former BET chief executive, claiming for earnings loss after takeover, backed by Lord Tebbit

## Tebbit gets on his bike to attack cult of ageism

Ian King

**L**ORD Tebbit yesterday took time off from the Tory conference in Bournemouth to attack the "cult of ageism" which he admitted made it difficult for anyone over 55 to find a job.

Lord Tebbit, who once famously told the unemployed to get on their bikes and look for work, told the High Court: "I suffer from it myself, being 65. It isn't fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their upper 50s."

Lord Tebbit's comments came as he gave evidence for John Clark, former chief executive of services group BET, who is claiming over £6 million in compensation after BET's £2.1 billion takeover by Rentokil in July earlier this year.

Lord Tebbit, a former non-executive director of BET since 1987, who has

previously attacked the way Rentokil "got rid" of Mr Clark, denied there was an "old school tie" culture in the world of commerce.

Responding to American-born Mr Clark's QC, Brian Langstaff, Lord Tebbit said: "One assesses people on their work. Their reputation is normally public, and there is not an old school network of people fixing jobs at cocktail parties and dinner parties."

Lord Tebbit also told the court that following its takeover of BET, Rentokil had "demanded" Mr

## 'It isn't fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their upper 50s'

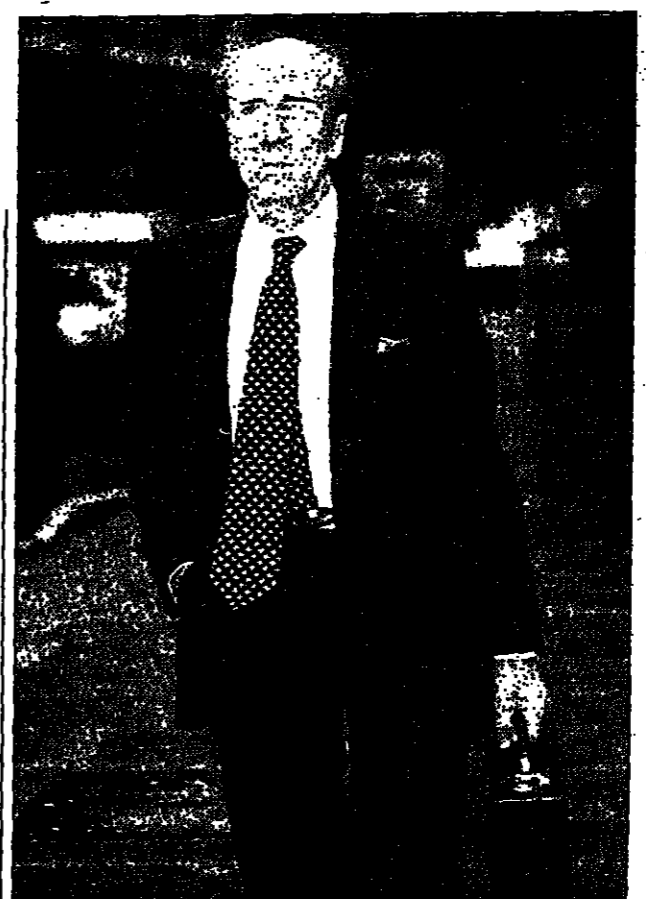
Clark's removal from office, without seeking any consultation with the BET board.

He claimed Rentokil's chief executive, Sir Clive Thompson, had "threatened personal legal action" against any BET board member who had not supported a motion to remove Mr Clark from office.

However, Andrew Houghton, Rentokil's QC, suggested that Mr Clark had "extremely influential" friends who could recommend him to others, and said Rentokil did not accept Lord Tebbit's version of Mr Clark's dismissal.

Mr Clark is suing for unfair dismissal, and is claiming three years' wages, bonus payments and benefits in lieu of notice worth over £6 million.

Rentokil refuses to pay compensation for the full three years, claiming that Mr Clark could have got another job to mitigate his losses.



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: TREVOR HUMPHRIES

## EC queries Alitalia aid

Mark Miller  
European Business Editor

**T**HE European Commission is to investigate the Italian government's plans to pump 1.5 trillion lire (£400 million) into the ailing flag carrier, Alitalia.

The investigation will focus on whether the cash injection amounts to a commercial investment or whether it is illegal state aid.

Alitalia needs the money because it is heavily in the red, with a run of losses stretching back several years. Analysts suggest that the airline will clock up substantial losses in this financial year.

Yesterday an Alitalia spokesman declined to comment on the Commission's move. The Commission is going to analyse our plan. It would not be appropriate to comment at the moment."

The Italian authorities, however, will be hoping that the package, which will also include substantial outside investment, can satisfy the Commission. Alitalia's strategy, which is designed to get it back into the black in 1997, also includes plans to cut costs and jobs over the next two years.

The Commission has already cleared subsidies to a number of state-owned airlines in recent years, including Air France, Greece's Olympic Airways and Spain's Iberia, despite criticism from non state-owned rivals. However, the Alitalia proposals could face a bumpy ride from Brussels.

Yesterday the Commission was quoted as saying that it "doesn't share the Italian argument that the proposed injection of capital is the action of any ordinary market investor and doesn't constitute a state aid."

In addition to questioning the possibility of illegal aid, officials are said to wonder whether or not the Alitalia plan takes sufficient account of the likely development of the European airline market.

## News in brief

### Inchcape subsidiary sold for £380m

**I**NCCHCAPE, the marketing and distribution group, yesterday nailed down one of the key planks of its ambitious restructuring plan with the £380 million sale of its Testing Services subsidiary to Charterhouse Development Capital. The sale price was significantly higher than analysts had expected. Stuart Simpson, a Charterhouse director, said: "We believed that it is justified by the group's prospects and current trading."

The sale will produce a profit of £180 million and is expected to be completed early next month. The cash will be used to reduce the Inchcape group's debt, which stood at £509.8 million at the end of June.

Philip Cushing, Inchcape's chief executive, defended the sale of such a successful subsidiary, the world's largest non-automotive testing organisation employing 7000 people worldwide, by stressing that the group was being focused on its core activities of marketing and motor distribution. The second big part of Inchcape's restructuring is expected to be the merger of its insurance division, Bain Hogg. — *Pauline Springett*

### Anger at Olivetti board ban

**F**OREIGN shareholders in Italy's Olivetti yesterday reacted angrily to news that the company would not allow them to nominate a board representative. "We're not giving up on it and we will continue to pursue them," said a London fund manager with a significant stake in the company.

The company had promised to bring in two non-executive directors to represent outside shareholders, but Dario Trevisan, the Milan lawyer the foreign institutions planned to nominate, yesterday confirmed Olivetti had not asked him to join.

Olivetti yesterday refused to comment on reports that NEC and Sony had formally expressed interest in acquiring its troubled computer making subsidiary which last week said it would sell by the end of this year. — *John Glover in Milan*

### Hull phone company expands

**K**INGSTON Communications, the unique municipally-owned telecommunications group, will operate outside the Hull area for the first time in its 22-year history following the £26.3 million buyout of Yorkshire Electricity's 50 per cent stake in Torch Telecom, completed yesterday.

Torch, an advanced business telecommunications network operator for Yorkshire and Humberside, was established as a joint venture between the two companies in 1984. The company, which handles around 10 million calls a month, will continue to operate as an independent company within the Kingston group, with its own licence and board of directors. Yorkshire Electricity has decided to leave the telecommunications market to concentrate on its core energy business. — *Maryn Halsall*

### Tractors go to market

**N**EW Holland, one of the world's biggest tractor and combine harvest makers, announced plans for a flotation on the New York stock exchange valuing it at over \$3.4 billion (£2.3 billion). New Holland, which accounts for one in every five tractors and one in every six combine harvesters sold worldwide, has its head office in Britain and employs over 2,400 people in the UK.

The company, which was created in 1991 when Fiat snapped up Ford New Holland and merged it with its Fiat Geotech agricultural equipment division, will remain 65 per cent owned by Fiat after the flotation. — *Ian King*

### South Africans buy UK broker

**C**ARR Sheppards, the British stockbroker with more than £2.5 billion of funds under management, is to be bought by South Africa's Investec Bank for an undisclosed sum. The firm is owned following a strategic review last year. The stockbroker has a client base of about 9,000 and employs more than 200 staff in London, Farnham and Reigate. The move, which is expected to be sealed by the end of the year, will boost Investec's assets under management or advice to more than 90 billion rand (£13 billion).

## Underside

Dan Atkinson

**R**AJ Bagri was in fighting form at the London Meet exchange's annual knees-up - the event he described as the "epicentre of the entire globe's metal industry" - at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Tuesday night. As he busily dispensed Sumitomo, two members of the 3,000-strong audience were doubtless listening with keen interest: Charles Vincent and Ashley Levett, co-founders of Winchester Commodities, were present as Mr Bagri warned that over-regulation of the LME would drive speculators into fringe investments, including Caribbean beaches and snow-backed mountains (now there's a couple of ideas for the Winchester boys). The LME, said Mr Bagri, "is no ordinary futures market". It sure isn't.

**T**he sang froid of our fund managers is something to behold. You may have thought that with the, ah, difficulties at Morgan Grenfell, Kleinwort Benson and Jardine Fleming, investment chiefs would be displaying more than a little anxiety about controls, ethics and so forth. Not a bit of it. A survey by FTS, supplier of portfolio management systems, asked: "What is keeping fund managers awake at night?" To which the short answer appears to be: "Absolutely nothing." Or rather, nothing important. Thirty-six per cent tossed and turned over "the diffi-

culty of outperforming benchmarks", and there was concern that above-mentioned affairs may have caused a "loss of credibility and public confidence". That their own houses may not be in order would seem to have worried none of them.

**S**HE can fly, sail, dive, do just about anything, but can the modern woman execute a major fraud? No, according to Martin Kennedy, solicitor and president of Interclaim, the new Dublin-based financial salvage outfit that aims to go after a slice of the \$1 trillion in abandoned claims hidden in offshore locations. His paper, *About Serious Fraud*, published last month and co-authored with partner Eugene Becker, carries an intriguing footnote: "The use of the appellations *him* and *he*... is not coincidental. In the authors' circumnavigations in pursuit of miscreants, we have yet to find, address or receive instructions about a woman who

was the alleged perpetrator of a large-scale fraud." Enraged, Andy Swinfen, London representative, handling its share issue, on 0171-734 7353. Meanwhile, tylists at the SFO can bid farewell to the drag of having to insert "or she" every other line.

**S**OMETHING else a woman can't do is jazz up a (zazz) report on Nordic retailing. A blonde in a red mini-dress, with matching knee-high boots, pours from the cover of SBC Warburg's latest analysis of Scandinavia's shopping industry. Beneath her, the report declares: "Attractive potentials are still outstanding" (goddit?). One problem: it's still a report on Nordic retailing.

**A** WARM Welshman welcome for auto-components maker Traltec, spending £7.3 million on a factory at Welshpool. OK, the firm's Japanese, as is most of the capital equipment (the rest comes from Austria). The workers? Hard to believe, but they may well be Made in Britain.

**T**HINK-tankers at Demos will find all that deep thought less of a strain from the new year, we understand. A wealthy supporter is laying on a pad in the south of France to which the cerebral ones can retreat for brainstorming sessions, conferences and the like, rather as rock hands used to hole up for the winter in Welsh cottages to rough out their next LP. Who is the benefactor? On this topic Demos is, extraordinarily, silent.



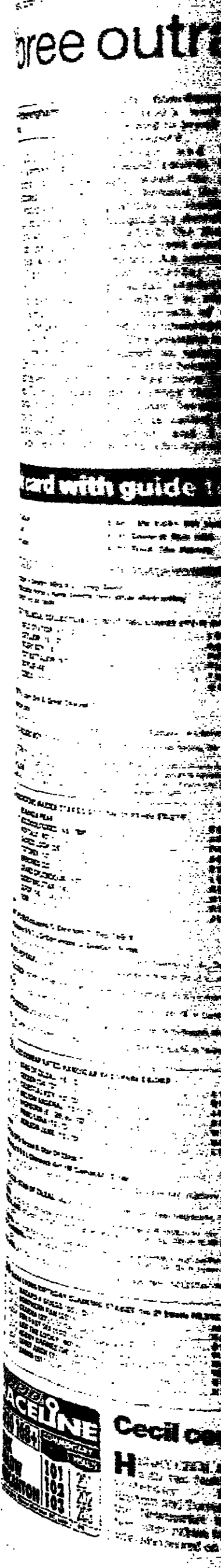
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# Smart Class not Club Class

## £35

easyJet

*John King*



Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a date or name.

Thursday October 10, 1996

# Racing

## Time to curb the antics of joyful jockeys

Chris Hawkins

Now that the dust has settled, or should be mud dried out, on the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe it is time to urge some action over the growing habit of winning jockeys making an exhibition of themselves as they pass the post.

The one blot on Helios's magnificent effort was Olivier Peslier's inelegant antics as he stood up in his stirrups, waving his whip and punching the air at least 100 yards before the line.

Not only is it unprofessional and unbecoming but downright dangerous and one day it will end in ignominious disaster.

In a sport so concerned these days with image it does not do racing any favours and I believe it is time the stewards were empowered to fine any jockey indulging in such premature and arrogant celebrations.

Frankie Dettori is inclined to go over the top and one can see this sort of thing becoming standard practice unless the authorities clamp down.

One of the more unlikely reasons advanced for the failure of Classic Cliche in Sunday's Arc was that Frankie Dettori was incapable of giving him much assistance on account of being over-tired after all the gaudy appearances and celebrations following his Ascot seven-timer.

Three Longchamp winners at the weekend, including a short-head triumph on Ryaan, hardly looked the work of a jockey man whose treble at Redcar on Tuesday certainly nailed the title.

Congo Man at Sandown last month.

Alexander Jane (3.00), another Godden runner, could complete the quick-fire treble in the Allied Dunbar Stakes. After winning a handicap at Sandown in May he did not reappear until the Ascot Festival when unplaced behind Fatefully and should be a much fitter mount.

The day's race was Ten Past Six (3.30), ridden by Michael Hills, in the Sasha Lyons Birthday Claiming Stakes. Recent form of this four-year-old is not inspiring, but early on in the season he was running well, notably when second in a Chester handicap under 10 stone and when beaten half a length by Clifton Fox who was in receipt of 10lb at Hamilton.

Michael Stoute has been enjoying a successful autumn and General's Star (4.00) should not be far away in the Green Howards Nursery.

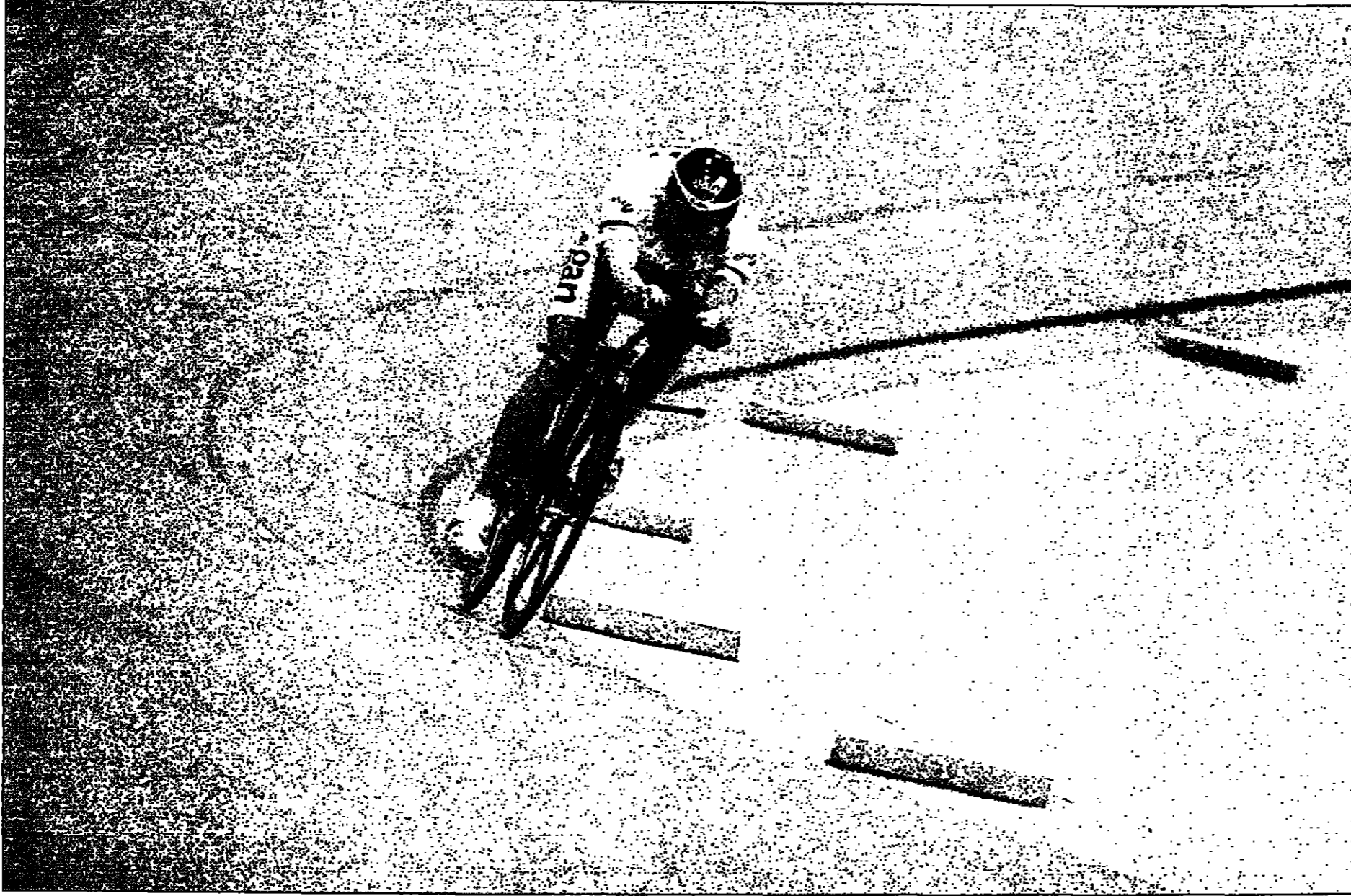
General's Star made all to win over this course and distance last month before finishing eighth to Al Azhar at Doncaster a week later.

Sandbagged again was second then and could be regarded as the main danger today, but he has yet to win, is badly drawn and meets General's Star on 3lb worse terms now.

Richard Dunwoody travels to the Czech Republic this weekend to ride his A Sulp for Charlie Mann, who won the race on the horse last year, in the Velka Pardubicka, in which 55 obstacles of varying severity have to be negotiated.

Joining Dunwoody will be Norman Williamson who rides Irish Steer for Ferd Murphy, and Ken Whelan, partner of Sue Bramall's Valeda II.

Dunwoody is in action at Wincanton this afternoon and should score on Kesanta (2.10), runner-up to Hand Woman at Newton Abbot, in the Hatherleigh Maiden Stakes and after a loosing spell of 69 when winning yesterday's Newton Hotel York Racecourse Handicap at York on Gene Savage, who came with a narrow lead to defeat Stuffed by one and a quarter lengths. Willie Musson, who trains the winner, puts a lot of credit for the horse's performance down to his work rider Alfie Westwood. Alfie has helped to find the key to training this horse," he said.



Knees bent, arms stretched... Boardman on his way to breaking the world record in Manchester last month using Obree's aerodynamic position. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS LOUPE

## Obree outraged at 'Superman' ban

William Fotheringham in Lugano

GRAEME OBREE, the former world champion, has launched a bitter attack on cycling's governing body, the International Cycling Union, after its decision to ban the aerodynamic position known as "Superman" devised by him last year.

Obree won last year's world track pursuit championship using the position, which the cyclist holds his arms out in front of his face, effectively removing them from the aerodynamic equation. The style was widely adopted to set Olympic records this year in Atlanta and was also used by Obree's long-time rival

Chris Boardman to take this year's world pursuit title and to break the world hour record.

Obree and the IUCI crossed swords two years ago when the governing body banned the tucked-in position — similar to that adopted by downhill skiers — which the Scot used to win the 1993 world championship. An outraged Obree said yesterday: "This is a personal vendetta against me which is also against the interests of the sport, and it is unacceptable."

Obree says he is not being banned on safety grounds; could it be because the position has been credited to him? I think the IUCI is embarrassed because this position is called the Obree position and I won the world championship last year using it. It will make the sport look silly, it's verging on incompetence."

The IUCI's case is that in recent years technical developments have obscured the physical demands made by cycling and have made it harder for the man on the street to identify with elite cyclists. "We do not want innovations which give technology preference over performance," the IUCI president Hein Verbruggen said yesterday.

## York card with guide to the form

2.00 Great Overton	3.30 THE PAST SIX (imp)
2.30 2.40 2.50	4.00 Ocala Star (imp)
3.00 Arlequin Jane	4.30 Rock The Barway

4.00 4.00 4.00	4.30 4.30 4.30
4.40 4.40 4.40	4.40 4.40 4.40
4.50 4.50 4.50	4.50 4.50 4.50

## Ludlow (N.H.)

2.50 Dove Race	3.50 Blue Raven
2.50 Holy Wanderer	4.00 Rigman Star
3.00 Don de Cadix	4.50 Barmouth
	5.30 Bath Knight

## Wincanton (N.H.)

2.10 Kesanta	3.40 Herbert Bushman
2.40 Drumsong	4.00 Courtier
3.10 Indragan	

2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CONDITIONS STAKES 570 M (21 days 04,070)

101 115 GREAT OVATION (41) (G)	1. Cantini 9-0	1. Balford 9
102 001 SHERYLORR (119) (M)	1. Hanson 4-0	1. Hughes 9
103 12482 BOLERO BOOT (18) (W)	1. Gentry 3-0	1. Balford 9
104 00302 FORTYFIVE (11) (M)	1. Headhead 5-11	1. Lyons (2) 9
105 110 BAYVIEW (449) (P)	1. Coles 8-0	1. Gales 9
106 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3

4.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CONDITIONS STAKES 570 M (21 days 04,070)

400 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
401 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
402 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3

4.40 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CONDITIONS STAKES 570 M (21 days 04,070)

440 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
441 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
442 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3

4.40 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS CONDITIONS STAKES 570 M (21 days 04,070)

440 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
441 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3
442 00004 KILPATRICK (19) (G)	1. St John 3-0	1. St John 3

## Results

YORK

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Olympic Games

Big losses rumoured in Atlanta

Adrian Warner in Lausanne

REPORTS that the Atlanta summer Olympic Games have lost tens of millions of dollars are being cautiously discounted here by the International Olympic Committee...

"I'm expecting good news, maybe not great news," said John Krizmsky of the US Olympic Committee. "But good news for me is anything in the black..."

Rugby League

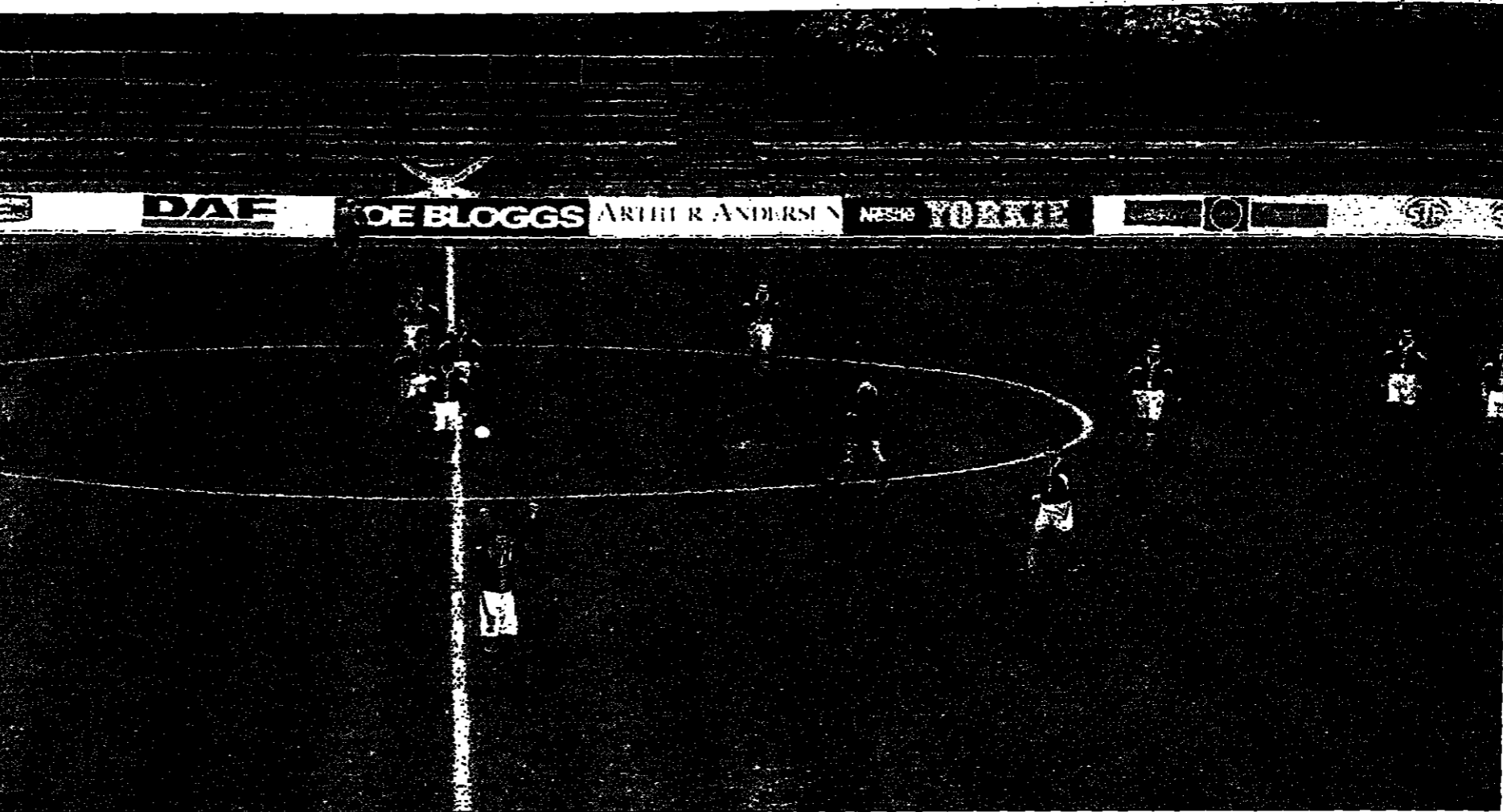
Fans resist move from Headingley

John Huxley

LEEDS supporters have reacted vigorously to the threat of the club's move from Headingley implicit in the announcement by Yorkshire County Cricket Club...

had declined to send a representative to last night's meeting, and a spokesman for the Leeds club said last night: "We are committed to persuading the cricket club to stay with us at Headingley..."

ESTONIA FAIL TO TURN UP IN FLOODLIGHT ROW



Game of no halves... Scotland celebrate after their 'victory'. Dodds passed to Collins and the referee blew the final whistle

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW ASHTON

One-sided victory for Scotland

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn witnesses a low farce as the opposition fails to turn up for their Group Four World Cup qualifier

THE pantomime season opened early here yesterday, when Scotland played a phantom World Cup tie against nobody. Estonia should have been there but, like some footballing Nessel, failed to appear...

sloner, Jean-Marie Gantenbein of Luxembourg, but would go along with whatever that official decided. At a meeting at the ground at 8pm on Tuesday the lights were tested...

said that the decision was final. An hour later Farry and other Scottish officials, their Estonian counterparts and Gantenbein...

But yesterday in Estonia the commissioner informed everyone that the lighting would not meet the Fifa standard and that the game would have the afternoon start.



Frank Keating

SUNDAY morning park footballers, of course, are used to the opposition not turning up; they just toss for ends and kick off against nobody before trooping off to the pub to celebrate the three points safely in their satchel.

kick-about working men's teams with such cannily boastful names as Queen of the North or (an exiled Spanish waiter's XI) Apparent Madrid. A glassworks played as Crystal Phallus until the Glasgow FA got wise and banned it...

lights. It is surprising that floodlit football has not been the cause of more postponements — apart from occasional power-cuts or Ted Heath's three-day week-end this is...

Advertisement for Minicall mobile phone service. Features a woman on a mobile phone and text: 'Stay in touch with no running costs. ONLY £59.99. PAGEONE COMMUNICATIONS'.

Waddle aims for higher office

CHRIS WADDLE'S Highland fling came to an end yesterday when his month-long contract at Falkirk expired. The former England winger had his final training session with the Scottish First Division side...

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Basketball, Chess, Cycling, and Ice Hockey.

McGrath set for £200,000 Derby move

Peter White DERBY COUNTY'S manager Jim Smith hopes to complete the £200,000 signing of the veteran Aston Villa defender Paul McGrath today.

Fixtures

Table of upcoming fixtures for various sports including Rugby League, Basketball, and Snooker.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured and difficult to read, mentioning 'Secret to head off breakaw...' and 'meth goes cosmop...'.

Rugby Union

Secret talks head off breakaway

Robert Armstrong

THE threatened breakaway by England's leading clubs from the Rugby Football Union...

Informal discussions between representatives of both bodies has produced an outline peace formula...

However, the RFU, which is as anxious as the clubs to avert a damaging split...

"We are keen to ensure that matters move towards a settlement," said the Epruc chairman Donald Kerr.

to the clubs, Twickenham will expect firm guarantees from Epruc on the release of players for England's international matches...

Yesterday the RFU's treasurer Colin Herridge, who is one of the four-man negotiating panel...

Herridge and his RFU colleagues Cliff Brittle, Tony Hallett and John Richardson will try to avoid stepping on any strategically placed banana skins tomorrow...

Rowell yesterday put his 51-man squad through a vigorous two-hour session that included heavy contact...

The manager once more delayed the announcement of the England captain to succeed Will Carling...

Rowell said that Carling would not take on a goalkeeping role for England. Carling has been sharing kicking duties for Harlequins...



Bonding together... Chris Sheasby (left) and Paul Grayson (right) combine to stop Tim Rodber at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Anglo-Welsh Cup: Cardiff 24, Harlequins 53

Mensah marks learning curve for Quins

David Plummer

HARLEQUINS left it at one defeat in 17 Anglo-Welsh Cup matches for English clubs as Cardiff suffered a record reverse on their Arms Park ground...

Welsh outing of the season. Notions of English invincibility seemed punctured in the opening period but soon Cardiff were blown away...

Having been on top, Cardiff found themselves trailing 34-3 at the interval. The home side were proficient in the set pieces...

in the second half but were still given an eloquent lesson, in spite of the advantage of having a Welsh referee who was concerned with imposing himself on the game...

ference between the two sides. Cardiff could not even think as quickly as the Quins could handle and pass, and tries from Connolly and Kitchen brought up the half-century.

Sport in brief

Shenton comes of age on world tour

THE British junior champion Tracey Shenton made her senior World Tour breakthrough in the second round of the Perrier Women's World Open Squash Championship at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

No breaks for Capriati

THE 20-year-old 1992 Olympic tennis champion Jennifer Capriati, on the women's circuit part-time after a two-year break because of drug problems...

Kiwi cleared for Saints

THE Super League champions St Helens have received work permit clearance for the 23-year-old Auckland Warriors prop Julian O'Neill.

Tumelty to face New Zealand

LEE TUMELTY's impressive form at the World Cup men's preliminary-round hockey competition in Sardinia has earned him a starting place in Ireland's semi-final against New Zealand today.

Nemeth goes cosmopolitan

ENGLAND's basketball coach Leszlo Nemeth has picked six overseas players in his squad to play the five remaining European Championship qualifying games...

Golf

Captain Kite's reconnaissance flight for cup campaign

Michael Britten in Madrid

TOM KITE is 46, wears large glasses and looks more like a librarian than a professional golfer. Yet this studious Texan, a former US Open champion...

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Dunhill Cup of cosy complexity



Tiger by the tail... Woods (left) faces pressures familiar to former prodigies Els and Mickelson

THE Dunhill Cup, that annual exercise in calculation and confusion in its format being that contradiction in terms, medal match-play — begins over the Old Course at St Andrews today.

That country are the top seeds this week, followed by Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. England, represented by Barry Lane, Lee Westwood and Jonathan Lomas...

third in his three previous events. He's impressed everyone on tour. "Just so long as he doesn't start believing all that 'How great you are' stuff," said Els, who also heard all the hype as a youngster but had a level-headed family around him to keep his feet on the ground.

David Davies finds some of the world's leading three-man teams preparing for another perplexing week at St Andrews

Perhaps Price was the most coherent about Woods. "He has come along at a time when America desperately needed a superstar. He has an unbelievable future but I think the US press will give him a tough time. He will need to have a pretty mature head on his shoulders."

Sailing

Golding hot away from pirates

MIKE GOLDING was feeling the heat yesterday as the best 24-hour run, 24 miles of the BT Global Challenge to Rio de Janeiro. Some 380 miles off the African coast and 1,200 north of the Equator, his Group 4 crew reported: "Down below is becoming unbearable, especially in the galley, with the heat of the generator and cooking."

Athletics

Drug D-day for Capobianco

TWO athletes who competed at the Olympic Games in Atlanta despite failing drug tests at meetings in May will learn in the next seven weeks if they are to be banned from competition. The International Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday that an independent arbitration panel will meet in Monte Carlo to consider the case of the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco on November 24 and that of the Italian high jumper Antonella Revilacqua on October 25.

Complaints by Wisden writer rejected

FOUR complaints about BBC Radio 5 Live's treatment of the author of the article that questioned the commitment of non-white England cricketers were yesterday rejected by a broadcasting watchdog. Robert Henderson, whose article it is in the Blood? appeared in the July 1996 issue of Wisden Cricket Monthly, reported the former England captain David Gower to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission because, he claimed, two editions of Gower's Cricket Weekly show were unbalanced and hostile towards him.

Complaints by Wisden writer rejected

Henderson, a freelance writer, also complained about his treatment on Radio 5 Live's The Magazine programme and The Back Page. He alleged a Radio 5 presenter asked if his article was "racist claptrap" and cut short callers who might have supported his views. The commission said a less pejorative phrase should have been used but could find no unfairness to Henderson in any of the programmes.

ENGLAND'S RUGBY: R. Scrimshaw (C. Pales), Brown, Austin (London), McGinness, Swales, Baker, Wiggins (Sheff), Gales (Northampton), Stanger (Newcastle), Garsburn (Worcester), Scrimshaw (Trist), P. Scrimshaw (Thames Valley), Ansell (Preston), Hurling (Lingwood), Wright (Boscon).

Superman bike is banned, page 13

Low farce in Tallinn, page 14

Secret talks head off breakaway, page 15

West Indies cut supply line, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## WORLD CUP SOCCER

European Group Two  
England 2, Poland 1

# Shearer double spares England defence

David Lacey

**A**PACKED Wembley kept the home fires burning for England last night but without Alan Shearer the evening would have become a walk. Two goals from the England captain considerably eased Glenn Hoddle's discomfort in his first home game as national coach after Marek Cifko had given Poland an early lead. But Hoddle's three-man defence looked vulnerable throughout and the 1996 World Cup looked a long way away.

Hoddle last night put his faith in the evolving Newcastle pairing of Shearer and Ferdinand which has already produced 10 of the club's 15 goals. Shearer was always going to be in but Ferdinand's recall was a surprise.

Previously Ferdinand had been regarded as an alternative to Shearer. The two had played together for England only once before, in the 1-1

draw with Portugal at Wembley last season.

Despite his explosive turn of speed and considerable strength in the air, Ferdinand had been an England promise largely unfulfilled. Graham Taylor had persevered with him; Terry Venables had been less impressed.

His renewed presence alongside Shearer made it even more imperative that England produced consistently good crosses last night. Barmby was dropped to accommodate Ferdinand but Hinchcliffe's trusty left foot was retained.

Not that this was of immediate concern, the way things turned out. Two probing Polish attacks suggested both that Nowak could find space with ease and that England might rue Hoddle's decision to dispense with Pallister.

Within six minutes theory had become uncomfortable fact. Baluszynski collected a return pass from Hajto on the right and sent a routine cross that should not have caused any problems. But Warzycha



Pole-star... Marek Cifko, alone beyond the far post, opens the scoring after six minutes at Wembley last night with David Seaman spreading himself in vain. PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE SPENCER

had come between Southgate and Neville, confusing the defenders as he allowed the ball to run on to the unmarked Cifko, who scuttled in from the left to beat Seaman with a narrow-angled shot.

This was not in the script. Wembley, packed with flags and expectation, had assumed that England would simply carry on from Euro 96. As the Poles continued to unravel Hoddle's defence, while getting enough men behind the ball to frustrate England's

attack, memories of less happy Wembley nights loomed.

Ominously England's attack began to lack width. Too many movements were concentrated in the crowded middle corridor — either that or long hopeful balls aimed vaguely in the direction of Ferdinand or Shearer.

Then after 25 minutes Shearer at last received the sort of ball he wanted and the scores were level. Beckham's long diagonal cross from the

right was inspired, defeating both Wojtala's leap and Wozniak's advance off his line. Shearer, coming in behind Wojtala, headed firmly into the net and Wembley hearts acquired a more regular beat.

Nowak, however, continued to orchestrate Poland's movements and still England's defence hung loose, inviting the angled pass and the well-timed attacking run. But, as long as Shearer retained his mood of the summer, none of this seemed to matter.

Eight minutes before half-time England were in front, thanks to Shearer's hunger for goals. McManaman, burrowing away skilfully, and Beckham, catching the Poles off guard with one late run through the middle, were being let down by Ferdinand's poor touch but now the Newcastle striker set up Shearer for a second goal.

Shearer's first shot took a deflection off Wojtala and went straight to Ferdinand, who laid the ball straight back again. Shearer took two strides more before beating Wozniak with a thunderous drive from the penalty arc. Had a far-post header not been off target as he met Hinchcliffe's sharply inswing-

ing corner, Shearer might have completed a hat-trick in 40 minutes.

Six minutes into the second half Pallister came off the bench to add height, weight and authority to England's defence — but not by choice. Southgate had hurt an ankle trying to intercept the advancing Michalski and could not continue.

England's football was still far from impressive. Too often they gave the ball away in a midfield where they had been outnumbered for much of the game.

But McManaman and Beckham were doing well, consistently finding avenues of approach to hit the Poles on the counter-attack and at their

most dangerous when they were turning the opposition on the right. Gascoigne, too, was still capable of inspired moments and an audacious attempt to chip the Poland goalkeeper had Wozniak arching back to tip the ball over the bar.

## Group Eight: Republic of Ireland 3, Macedonia 0

# Two-goal Cascarino the Irish inspiration

Charlie Stuart in Dublin

**T**HE Republic of Ireland took a giant step to the World Cup finals in France in 1996 when they swept aside the challenge of Macedonia at Lansdowne Road last night. Their hero was the 34-year-old veteran Tony Cascarino with two second-half goals to add to Jason McAteer's early strike.

"Another victory at home to Iceland next month will make it a very happy Christmas for us all," said their manager Mick McCarthy.

McCarthy had promised that the Irish would be positive from the start, and his young team wasted no time in carrying out those instructions and warning a home crowd of 31,671 supporters.

Only eight minutes had gone when a sweeping move started by the Leeds defender Ian Harte allowed Alan McLoughlin to set up a chance for Liverpool's Jason McAteer, whose 16-yard drive gave Danco Caleski no chance in the Macedonia goal. It was

McAteer's first goal for the Republic in 19 appearances.

It was only the heroics of Caleski that denied the Republic a further goal through McLoughlin, but the visitors gradually settled down and came close to an equaliser when Toni Micevski's shot flew just over the bar.

Cascarino, revelling in a rare start in Irish territory, almost added to the Republic's lead after 28 minutes with a header touched over by Caleski.

Macedonia, skilful on the ball but lacking penetration, again might have equalised when Cosev led on a perfect ball for Partizan Belgrade's Georgi Hristov just before half-time but his 20-yard effort was inches wide.

McCarthy shook the complacency out of his team during the interval with a pep talk that produced instant results. O'Neill battered down the challenge of sweeper Nikolovski and Cascarino was on hand to hook the ball into the corner of the net.

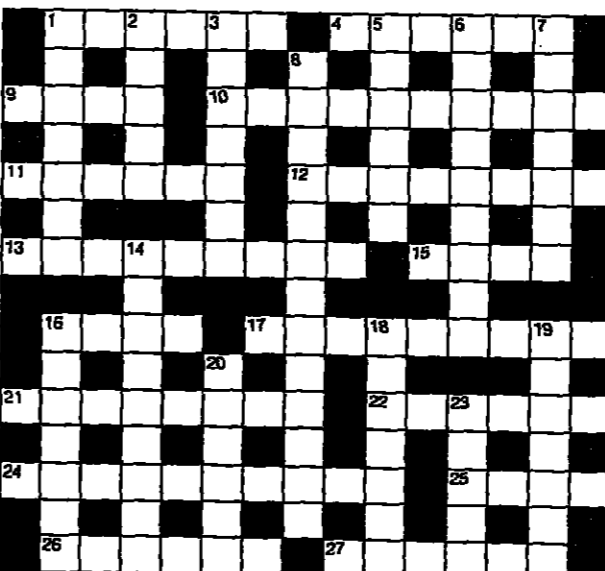
Two up after 46 minutes,

the Republic began to dominate the second period. Townsend and Staunton both went close before Cascarino scored a third goal in 70 minutes. A cross from Blackburn's Jeff Kenna took a deflection off a defender and Cascarino made no mistake with a powerful close-range header.

In the 80th minute Townsend hit an upright with a fierce left-foot shot after a knock-down from Cascarino, the man of this match. Two minutes later the crowd roared their appreciation when the veteran John Aldridge came on. They wanted him the score the goal that would have equalled Frank Stapleton's Irish record of 20 goals at international level, but despite the encouragement of the Liffey roar Aldridge was happy just to be part of another great World Cup night.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,780

Set by Rufus



### Across

- 1 No more wine — that's the limit (6)
- 4 Order a cavalry attack (6)
- 9 Key study of ex-P.M. (4)
- 10 Quits the board, getting a fair settlement (6,4)
- 11 Old soldier taking flight (6)
- 12 Catalogue to the French pictures (8)
- 13 Always thoughtless? Doesn't matter (5,4)
- 15 Kind of line used by a puffer (4)
- 16 Be a shade over-extravagant? (4)
- 17 Island in the Atlantic rising above the horizon (9)
- 21 Dance I sat out, seeing an offensive weapon (8)
- 22 Show rank subservience? (6)

### Down

- 1 Doreen's bent back (7)
- 2 Some have eaten chips with fish (5)
- 3 Remedy found in no way strange (7)
- 5 By means of joining present and past (6)
- 6 Army jumpers (3,6)
- 7 Obliteration is certain after time (7)
- 8 Killing time (7,6)
- 14 Agitated farm animal that is caught in a net, perhaps (9)
- 16 Washed up when everyone was in bed (7)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,779**

1 DOWN: WINE; 2 DOWN: CHIPS; 3 DOWN: REMEDY; 4 ACROSS: ORDER; 5 DOWN: PAST; 6 DOWN: JUMPERS; 7 DOWN: TIME; 8 DOWN: KILLING; 9 ACROSS: P.M.; 10 DOWN: SETTLEMENT; 11 DOWN: FLIGHT; 12 DOWN: PICTURES; 13 DOWN: THOUGHTLESS; 14 DOWN: ANIMAL; 15 DOWN: PUFFER; 16 DOWN: OVER-EXTRAVAGANT; 17 DOWN: ISLAND; 18 DOWN: COUNTRY; 19 DOWN: COUNTRY; 20 DOWN: COUNTRY; 21 DOWN: DANCE; 22 DOWN: SHOW.



Bar code.



Altogether more interesting bar code.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

**The sense of ferrets fighting for mastery of a septic tank is depressing — poetry is the national art, after all — and it's unlikely to be what the well-disposed new reader wants to hear about.**

Sean O'Brien

Books, G2 page 8

Handwritten signature or mark.

October 11 1996

Friday

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